

The
Passionate Morrice.

London,
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1593.

The
Psalms of David

Printed by Richard Turner
London.
1803



To the Gentlewomen and others of *England*.



Nce more (most beautiful damfels)
I am bold to presume of your won-
ted fauour, thereby being lead to a
performance of a vowed duetie,
where a kinde zeale bindeth to of-
fer the acceptance of a seruiceable
good will, there a carefull feare that
forewarneth to incurre the hazard
of offence, maketh the hart to stag-
ger betweene hope and despaire: hoping through the kinde-
nes of your gentle dispositions, to obtaine a defence against
iniurious cauillers, and fearing by an ouer-bolde presumpti-
on, to offer offence to the affable sweetenes of your soue-
raigne curtesie. But seeing my desire to bee possessed of the
better cordiall, makes me hart-strong to suppe of that poti-
on which is likest to lengthen my welfare, the same being an
assured confidence of your continuall carefulnes, in shrow-
ding with your affection the slender substance of my humo-
rous Morrice.

It is not long since for *Tel-troths* Newyeeres-gift, I presen-
ted vnto your liking *Robin good-fellow* his newes, with his in-
uectiue against *Loues* most iniurious enemy *Ielousie*: which
though it was a token to gratifie the day, yet if with indiffe-
rent iudgement the matter therein contained be considered
of, I doubt not, though it was a New-yeeres day toy, it may
proue a many yeeres helpe to hinder that haggis enterpri-
ses. The worke tooke his title according to the time of his
creation but shall *Robins* prescriptions be followed; the pa-
tients maladie shall continually finde it a gifte to signifie the

The Epistle.

good beginning and prosperous proceeding of many new yeeres vnto them. But now to send *Tell-truth* packing, *Honestie* hath thrust himselfe into your seruice, who though at the first sight he may seeme a crabbed companion, yet let me beseech you to stay your censure til you haue thoroughly tryed what is in him, and if then he shewes not himselfe a diligent pleaser of your immortal vertues, memorize in the Cronicles of Disdaine the fame of that runnagate simplicitie, and let me for his faulte be banished from your good thoughts to euer-lasting ignominie.

I was rather desirous to trauel altogether inuisible, then to haue had a title which might giue light to the vnderstanding of me your vnworthie professed Author; but since the higher powers denie me that priuiledge, I am content to subiect my selfe to the opinions of courteous dispositions: beseeching you to beare with my vaine, for that the vanitie of this age regardes no other, nor would any be content to heare of faultes, vnlesse they be tolde them in meriment. I protest there is nothing scandalous therein, nor which is ment to offer iniury to any, onely my purpose is, that if you should know any like vnto any of those in disposition, that either you forewarne them those monstrous iniurious vices, or accompt of them as pestilent foolish wretches. To shun tediousnes, I commit my intention to your mysticall consideration, my worke to your courteous protection, my selfe to your fauourable opinions, and your sacred selues to the heauens

tuition.

*Tours in seruice and affection
most loyall A*



THE PASSIONATE
Morrice.



In the moneth of March, a time
as fit for wooing as May is plea-
sant to sporte in, Honestie travel-
ling as his custome is, to search
such corners as good fellowship
haunteth, it was my hap, coming
into Hogsdon, to light vpon a
house, wherein were met such a
troupe of louers, as had not the
hall been wondrous bigge, a multitude should haue been
forced to stand without doores. Yet though the roome was
so spacious, as an armie might haue lodged therein with-
out pesterment, notwithstanding it was so well filled at
this instant, as all the place Honestie could get amongst
them, was to sit on the rafters on the top of the house,
which fitted best my humour, that desires rather to see
then to be scene. There seated in my Maiestie (as ready to
heare newes, as the pickthanke is forward to tell newes)
I might easely perceauie my louers mated, as if they ment
to make Parche birds, euery man hauing his swete hart,
and euery couple their corner. There were of all sortes,
and in many manners sorted, some batchelers selued to
widdowes, others to maides, widdowers likewise wooed
some maides, and other some widdowes, there was age and
youth coupled together, equalitie of yeares courting each
other, and diuersity of dispositions, arguing to make a sym-
pathie.

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Amongst them, I lent my eares first to a couple that had chosen forth the most secret corner in the house, which were not worst fitted for yeares; for it was a youth of thre and twentie, that had matched himselfe with a maide of eightene: he holding her upon his knee, with his right hand clasping hers, & his left about her middle, made many proffers to win her fauour, and breathed many sighes to shew his loue, he vowed constancie with protestations, and confirmed with othes the pledge of his loyaltie; he shewed her how long he had loued her before he durst tel her of his affection, how many iournies he had made with losse of labour, and how many complaintes to the God of Loue not finding any remedie. He made her pursue to the many houres he had at sundrie times spent in watching to haue a sight of her, shewing vnto her how ioyfull he were, had he, perchance, but sene any creature belonging to her fathers house, yea were it but the little dog that turned the spit. Many times (quoth he) haue I lookt vp to the window, imagining I haue sene thy picture engrauen in the glasse, when with long gasing to biewe the true portrature thereof, I haue at last recalled my selfe, by letting my soule see how mine eyes were deceiued, in expecting that true forme from the glasse, which was onely pictured in my heart. Then would I sorrowe to my selfe, and power forth such passions into the ayre, as my heart, being ouer loaded with the extremitie they would force, would constraine me to sit downe, ending my speeche with such sighes, as my breathed sorrowe would no lesse darken the ayre, then a mistie fogge doth obscure the skie. But at last, coming to my selfe, I would returne home, locking vp my selfe within my lodging, a close prisoner by the commandemēt of loue; where to passe away the time, I would wyte passionate lines, amorous ditties, pleasing fancies, pleasant rondelaies, and dolesfull dierclapes. Now would I thinke to winne thee by letters, anon I thought it better to pen speeches, but suddainely, both misliking me, I would throwe
my

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my selfe vpon the bed, so long thinking which way to obtaine thee, as in the end I should fall into a slumber. Yet amidst my rest, my thoughtes concerning thee were restless: For then should I dreame sometimes thou spakkest me faire, repaying my kindenes with sweete kisses, granting my requests and forward to doe my will: but awaking from forth that soueraigne elusion, looking to finde thee, I should feele the bed-possees, that hard hap, turning my glad heart to a new bread sorrow, which was the more painefull, by how much my dreame was pleasing: at another tyme, I should thinke, that suing to thee for fauour, thou wouldest bestowe frownes, & profering my seruice, thou wouldest offer skoznes. If I sighed, thou wouldest smile, laughing at my teares, and ioying at my grieve, requiting euery kinde demande with so cruell answers, as if thy bitter words could not force me to leaue my suite, thy skoznefull farewels should frustrate my wil: offering to touch thine hand, mee thought thou proferedst thy scote, and stooping to catch that, being glad of any thing, thou wouldest in a rage sing from me, and leaue the doze barred against me. There should I sit till my teeth chattered in my head, and my heart ake in my bellie: then should I shake for colde, and sigh for sorowe, when thinking to knock my legges against the ground to get heate, I should kick al the cloathes off me, being in the end constrained to awake through colde. At what time that colde fare would better content me, then the former flattering cheare did please me, being as glad it was false, as I would haue been glad if the other had been true. Many like to these did I endure before my acquaintance with thee, not knowing any meanes how to obtaine the same of thee, but till happily finding thee in a summers evening at the doze, I presumed to enter parlie with thee, offering my selfe your seruant, which had been a tweluemoneth your sworne subiect, doubting of your patifce, though you seemed to be a patterne of pittie. Now and after what order I haue since that time besought your fauour, your selfe shall

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be my iudge, for I list not to rehearse my dayly thiftes, to shewe my zeale, my manyfolde conclusions to obtaine your companie, my giftes to woe the seruants, and my presents to gaine your good will. But to be brieife, there by to come to that I like best, one whole yeare I loued thee before thou knewest me, & thre moze are passed since first I spake to thee: yet then was I as neare as now I am, and now as farre off as I was then. Say therefore swete, since to stay longer yeelds but little comfort, shall my suite now end with the verdict, You loue me?

To which long preamble, shut vp with so whot a conclusion, she no lesse prepared herselfe to answer him, then Friar Tuck vsed ceremonies before he long mattens. She cast her eyes vp to Heauen, as if she had been making her prayers to loue, sighing so bitterly, as I thought hir place ket lace would haue broke, then to the matter thus she answered. Alas gentle sir, I must confesse I haue found you kinde, and you haue been at a great deale moze cost then I could with you had, your suite hath been long, and my kindenes not much, noz doe I hope you expect moze at my hands then you haue had, before my friends haue granted their good will. Maidens are modest, and must not be prodigall of their courtesie: children are bound and cannot consent without their parents counsell: pardon mee therefore I pray you, if I say I loue you not, since my father knowes you not, and thinke not much if I desire you to leaue to loue mee, vntill my mother giue me leaue to like of you. At which time assure your selfe I will be as ready to perforce your will, as they shall be forward to wish me that good, and thus in the meane time, I hope you will rest satisfied. This was a shroade bone for my pafsionate youth to gnaw on, that being so stricken on the head as his heart aked therewith, thought to ease his sorrowe with this replic. Ah my sweetest swete (quoth hee) Thinke not on thy fathers counsel, seeing a greater friend craueth his deserte, noz let me rest their leasure without pitie, that hath thus long remained constant vnto thee.

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thee. I loue thee not for thy friends sake, though I loue them for thy sake : not doe thou lothe me for their pleasure that liues but at thy pleasure. But swæte and soueraigne of my hart, as thy thoughts be not tied to their wils, so let not thy loue be linked so fast to their liking, as their dislike should end my life by remouing thy loue. Say my goddesse, and there withall as he was proceeding, she cut off the rest with this short answer. I beseech you sir to leaue off your courting, vnlesse you entend some other conclusion then as yet I can gather : for of my faith loue you I will not, nor consent I dare not without my friends giue their consents first, and thereupon she thrust through the throng and passed out of doores, leauing my passionate louer to say his pater noster alone, where we will leaue them.

What I thought I will tell you, and I hope you will not doubt of the matter, for that Honellie speakes it. One pères loue without acquaintance, and thre pères suite to be neuer the nêrer : either he was a bad lawyer, or she a monstrous vniust iudge: but be it, both a passionate Ass, and a pœuish wench were well met. But marke his folly and her cunning, he building Castles in the aire and setting trappes in the Sunne to catch the shadowe of a cope quene, was pleased by her, with wagging his bawble, and ringing his bell, while she pickt his pocket and cut his purse. A proper pèce of seruice of a passionate Souldier, and a prettie sleight of a flattering Slut : I would we had more of them, nay why with I that, since the worlde is so full of such alreadie: Yet of my honesty, she was as fitte a match for such a soule, as might be found in the worlde. A great deale of fond fancie repaid with a sharpe short deniall, and thre pères affection rewarded with an ounce of flatterie, mingled with a pound of discourtesie: a good cordiall to comfort so kinde a hart. Oh the subtilty of the diuell, that vnder the shadow of obedience, couers y craft of cosonage. It is hotte loue that buildes on friends liking, and pestilent affection that relies rather on the mothers

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lone, then on the Louers loyaltie. Such as stands so curiously on their Parents good will, hauing dealt so craftily without their consent, are worthe by Honesties done to stand in a Cage, vntill either their friends good will be got, or her sweet harts licence obtained for her deliuerie. And this is to god, so that the kinde Ass wil to to some release her: I thinke this punishment would be worse welcome vnto her, namely, that she be bound from marriage, so long as she hath kept him without his answer, which will so pinche her prodigall desire, as either she will forswear honestie, or neuer commit the like knauerie. Wh there is a companie of minions which delight to haue many sutozs, that they may bragge amongst their mates of their diuersitie of louers: they thinke it commendable to haue store of customers. But knowe they so much as I know, they were better to goe once in a fortnight to Greenes Cunnyberries, then to haue such resorte to haunt their companies.

Honestie honours the consent of Parents, but abhorres such loue as is built on their liking, if there be no remedie but that either they shall like, or thou wilt not loue, let him haue thy Fathers good will before he obtaines thy countenance: for doubtles she that will entertaine louers, and repay their courting with kindenes, will care as little for her friends counsell, hapning on a mate she can fancie, as the horse will for haye, that hath his manger full of prouender. And what is the cause why so many stande so curiously on their friends consent? nought forsooth, but the presumption of a double baite, that being sure of their countenance, they may be assured of an other dinner if their owne likes them not; or otherwise to haue a hole to hide a ffor in, so that her owne denne is not secret enough. If her Husband controlle her for any misdemeanour, or reprove her of any dishonest behauiour, then on goes her pantoples, building the reckoning of her honesty on her fathers countenance, so far presuming of his bounden duetie for the match making, as if he kept the keye of her

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her huswiferie. Her long tounge vtters large speeches, standing at defiance vnder the banner of her fathers defence, and his house must be her Castell to keepe her from her Husband. This is the commoditie a man shall reape by such a match, and this is their meaning that would couer their rebellion with the cloak of obedience. Is not he well preferred that is so well married, and how can he mend it? Harry no way but this, that he which is mated with the like inconuenience, to learne more wit against the next time, striving in the meane time to please both her and her friends, since he had so much reason to woo both her friends and her to be bound to so bad a bargain.

It is follie (quoth a wise man) to be so; rowful so; things irreuerable, and Honestie thinkes it madnes to repent for deedes done, whereof her selfe is culpable: can any man be so witles (especially in matter wherein wisdom is so much required) as to doe, and with vndone in a moment: peadubtles, Honestie knowes such, they being the hottest spurres of our age, that thinke every day a twelue moneth vntill they be married, and after they are matched, every houre seauen yeeres, vntill they are parted. It was hotte loue that will be so soone colde, some of you will say, but I say, if it had been hot loue (as it was burning lust) it would not haue been so soone colde. For whereas y proverb goes, that hot loue wil be soone colde, it is ment by such affection as wants matter therby to continue longer. For as that is the purest wood which yeelds the perfectest heat, and y purer it is, the sooner it wilbe it own destruction, leauing the sitters by without fire, vnles a fresh supply be as neede requires, added; so wil our hotte loue (whose kindled affection is come vnto it perfection, the hart being on such a blaze, as every part of it is on a light flame) decay (as reason and nature requireth) vnles new saggots of kindenes, adde fresh matter for fiering, the supply thereof remouing all suspicion of want of affection. How pure y loue is, where there is so light a regarde of proffered kindenes, as my fathers will or my Mothers leaue must be a spurre

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to my liking, let euery one iudge that knowes loue.

But in my opinion, as I confesse that the duetie we owe to our Parents, may doo muche where the knowledge thereof bindes to obeye, so must I confirme that loue is a duetie himselfe, binding to so great obedience and tying with such strong conuauances, as he remoues all thoughts of lower dueties: I tearming al dueties lower, for that by commaundement those dueties must be reiected in respect of the louing duetie that a Husband shall require. Now how far my nice Opinion was from knowing this duetie, her roye demeanour and cunning behauiour hath manifested. Yet how happie was my youth at last to be rid of such a monster: And monster may I tearme her in respect of her lewde behauiour; for was it not much better that her inconstancie should haue bene knownen before he was fast linked vnto her, then it should haue bene found when it had ben incurable: Doubtles it was a good cause he had to double his orisons vnto loue, for so louingly preserving him from so pestilent a prittie-bird, I should haue said pricking-burre, or paultry bauble.

BUt to come to my second couple, which were seated opposite to these in an other corner, being a lustie widower that was courting a gallant wench, both of them being highly beholding to nature for her liberall skill in their making, which were thus placed. She was set down overlooked by him standing before her, hauing one of his hands leaning on her lap, and the other resting on the wal, hauing thereby (as I gesse) the more libertie to vse his pleasure, in bestowing kinde kisses and louing fauours: so he was seated, and thus he began to sue. Faire Maide (quoth he) I know my experience to be greater then your practise, for that I haue tried, rules me by reason: hauing loved and liued with my loue, vntill by the fates I was bereaued of that fruit, so well liked I of my last losse, as my former good hap breeds an assured hope of the like good fortune, that being a helpe to further my will, and a meane to make a new choise: which change, what good it shal yeeld, your

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your selfe shall challenge, whose good reporte hath bound me to commence my deserts, to receiue their censure by your doome. To boast what I am were fruitles, for that your friends are already priuie to my estate, and to say how well I loue you were bootles, for that women loue to trie ere they trust, yet vnles I should say more then I haue saide, I should seeme to say nothing: though to say more then is spoken already were merely foolish for thus stands the case, I haue made choise of you for my second wife, and haue already your friends good will, there rests therefore nothing but a confirmation of your duetic, in agreeing to that they haue confirmed: thus coming to a full point, he closed by his period with a brace of smirking kisses, which wrought with his Louer, as a strong pyll both with a sore sicke patient: namely, they forced her to answer him thus thye wordely. The assurance of your good fortune Sir, hath made you highly beholden to her deitie, that dauncing in the morrice of good matches, you should be led by her to so good hap: but belike it was ouer good to continue long, either her kindenes being ouermatched with your vnconstancie, or your good happe ouer ruled by fortunes cruelty: They euer change and lightly neuer but for the worse: which the rather seemes so vnto me, by the sure knowledge I haue of your second choice, that is so far vnequall to your reported first match, as I know your liking would not remain long, or my unliking would come too soone; because I am not able to follow what your first wife hath performed, and you will be vnwilling to beare with the wants your second choice must be enriched with. But peradventure I mistake your meaning, for whereas I thinke you sue to haue me to your second wife, you seeke but to haue my good will to liue with my friends, also good strump duetic (as you say) must not gainsay their pleasure, nor will I for that matter, but with all my hart if you haue their licence for your word, haue my good will to obtaine your bed there also, for their house is at their owne commaundement. Then doubt I not (replyed he) to

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haue you for my bedfellow. But that doubt I (answered she) for that I know the contrary. Why dare you (quoth he) to disobay your Fathers commaundement? So (sayd she) so it be for my commoditie. It shall be both for your profite and pferment. Make me to beleue that (quoth she) and then peradventure it may be a bargain. Why woman (saide he) I deserue your better. Take her (answered she) and I will not be matched to your inferiour. Why then I see you do scant loue me? I vse it not (quoth she) and yet I sweare I will mocke you, rather then marrie with you. With which being highly displeased, he bestowed thre or foure crabbed tearmes, being liueries of his cholerick long tounge, and so departed.

A shame goe with him, thought Honestie, whatsoeuer she thought, and with all such Louers; louers: with a halter, lubbers I may better tearme them. What monstrous matches are such as are shuffled by after the selfe same order? Suppose she had bene fearefull and durst not to haue resisted the receipt of what she lothed, imagine she had bene foolish and could not haue iudged of affection: thinke she had bene for ward, and would haue bene glad of any one: alas poore wretch, I pittie the supposition, what should I haue said to the confirmation? Know assuredly she should haue sighed whatsoeuer I had saide, and mourning should haue ben her companion, what ere had ben my communication; he would haue daunst with her portion, while she had drowped through want of affection; he would haue loathed her company, for that she was not a dayly commoditie; her life should haue ben like the backenies that are at every mans commaundement for the hire, and her toy as momentary as the flourishing graine grasse in Iuly. Pittifully should she haue liued, punished by him without pittie, and this is my reason of the possibilitie; for that it is most likely he loued her not, & how well any body vse them they loue not, let them speake that suspect not. Now that he loued her not, may be proued both by his kinde of wrong, carelesly suing vnto her, peremptorily surping

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surping her fathers authoritie, which was a band to tye her to obedience, though a bad meane to obtaine her curtesie. For affection is not to be limited, nor loue to be compelled, but contrarily, hatred followes feare, and feare forerunneth dislike, and how we loue those we regarde not, iudge they that woo and obtaine not? But this custome is too common and ouer cruell, namely, a wooing of friends, and a constraint of loue, I would not say, compelling, but for feare it should haue been taken for compelling. Were Honestie a Justice, they should either lye in the stocks a fortnight, or marry her I would match him with, which should seeke a wife after this order. I thinke verily he would rather stay his skint by the heeles, then be bound to the other inconuenience; and yet he could finde in his hart to binde another to y^e bad bargain. This is charitie, yea & neuer a whit of honestie, being so farre from ciuilitie, as the Millers craft is from true dealing. Now truly truly, to deale as we would be dealt with, is sent to the hedge a begging, and neighbourly loue is made a backbite, being so wayne to the bones with seeking a good spallster, as his skime will hang on the bush shortly.

I haue heard a repozte of a passing kinde man, that complained of his wife at a Sessions, for pissing a pot full, iudging thereby she was dishonest, and that same man shortly after burying his wife, sued to a maide, after the manner aforesaid: he had obtained her friends good will, and were at a point for the Maidens loue, yet on a time she was troubled with the head-ake, at his being with her, whercof he so misliked, as in the morning he went to the Physitions to haue their opinions to what disease it coulde turne, and vpon their repozte left her. I am assured I haue erred in no point, vnlesse I haue mistooke the last, putting the Physitions opinion in the roome of his owne bad meaning; it was no disease indeede that misliked or misled him, but it was of the fathers purse, not of the Daughters head: well she was well prouided for in missing of him, and if he sped any thing the better, let him boast of it, but

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Honestie can iudge no better of the remnant of his compassions, then his action giues the verdict of him, which is as bad as may be.

But to another that hapned on one that had the toothake, with whom he would not marry for feare the hollownesse of her tooth should corrupt her breath, and so annoye his colde stomack. It was colde indeede, and I would such stomacks might be heated with redde hotte gold, as chierfull as scalding leade. Well to a third, he liked her parents wel, for that they were honest & godly, and as well of the maiden, because she seemed modest: to be brief, he could find no faulte in either of them, onely his feare was that the Daughter would be somewhat shyewish, for that she had a long nose, and thereupon gaue her ouer. If her nose had bene long enough, I think he might haue smelt a knaue, but I am assured she knewe a churle, and so let her claime him wheresoeuer she sees him. Yet one more of the same stamp, and so we will leaue them. This was a woer in graine, who had gone so far, as they were at next doore to be askt in the Church. The wedding apparel was bought, the day appointed, yea and I may tel you, many of y^e gresse bid, only there was no assurance, for that he abhorred: but it fortun'd that befoze the day there dyed a rich man that left a welthie widdow, to whom he made so secret loue, as he wonne her good will within a fortnight after the death of his predecessour: well, not withstanding to saue his counterfeited credit, and preserue his hypocriticall honestie, he resorted dayly to his olde swete hart, with whom vpon some final reason he fel at ods, vsing her so vnkindly in speeches, as he drew teares for sorrow. Glad of this, though turning his earnest into iest, he called her vnto him, in the presence of many of her fathers seruants, then swearing that if he toke him not about the necke & kissed him, he would neuer marry with her as long as he liued. Which y^e pong Gentle woman refused to doe, partely for that he had iniured her highly, but y^e rather least such fondnes should seeme immodestie to the seruants: vpon whose denial, in a great
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time he flung forth of the doores, and in a rage as if of spight, within one fortnight after he matcht with the widow we aforesaid. But to tell you what a life she lead with him, were to hunt from the purpose, yet assure your selfe it was so bad, as y^e world iudged this maid neuer better blest then in not being bestowed ne cast away vpon him.

Such and of the same sorte are these money-worrs, that sue first to the father to saue labour, for speede they will, and if they misse in one place, they knowe another where they will practise. And how can it be iudged otherwise, seeing their meaning in vsing that meane importes no lesse: for thinke they, if I haue the fathers good will, the daughter will be easilie wonne, and if I misse of his, I saue that time and labour, in suing to the maide, besides the giftes I should bestowe. Ha ha, I haue him by sent, and what thinke you of him: in faith no other wise then Honestie beléues. You smell a fore, I and a ranke one too, whose breach is so strande with this gilding matter, as it may easely be iudged what much hee loues. Alas god hearts, that are coupled with such bad mindes, this is loue: true, but what loue: couetous loue, hatefull dissimulation, hypocriticall affection, and what not that is contrarie to the swéete soueraigne loue, which sues for kisses and not for coyne, which craues the heart & nothing else; for with it al she hath is his, and he that wil looke for more, I woud he had a halter, and he shall not want it in hell, howsoeuer he speedes here. Fie fie, marriages for the most part are at this day so made, as looke how the butcher bies his cattel, so wil men sel their children. He that bids most shal speed soonest, & so he hath money, we care not a fart for his honestie. Well it hath not ben so, and I hope it wil not be long so, & I wil assure you, loues common-wealth wil neuer flourish until it be other wise. Why, it is a common practise to aske the father what hee will giue with his childe, and what is that differing from cheapening an Ore: And it is as common, that if she be fat, it is a bargaine, but if leane, she must stay another customer. Out alas what loue is this, in faith if I

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might haue sped better in another place, come to notice after I haue bought your daughter, she shall pay for it, or I will make dice on her bones. A pittifull partenership, where there is no greater loue, and how can but one of them be vndone? He will vse her ill, because he loues her not, and shee cannot loue him for not vsing her well; for whome we feare we hate, and what then? Hee will practise her ende, she will wish his death, and while they liue together, it will be so full of heartbreakings through quarrels and contentions, as woe to them both, I and to the third too, that was so forward to make so bad a matche. But howsoeuer they two speede, I am assured shee will speede worse, as for hir husband, he will not want excuses to defend his knauerie, and hir father must beleene him, because of hir former credit giuen vnto him; so that contented she must be, how discontented so euer she liues, and beare it she must, vntill her hart breake, which happie day must ende her miserie, and set my craftie tower at libertie.

Thus much for my second corner, and now to my third couple, which were ciuilly seated on a benche together, they being the one a batcheler, and the other a widdowe, which was wooed by him after this like order. It were folie forsaeth (quoth he) to vse circumstances, since you are so well acquainted with the like practise: but to leaue them and come to the matter, which is (as I thinke) the best meane to please vs both, you shall vnderstand that vpon the good reporte your honest life hath deserued, I haue conceived so good liking of you, as I should thinke my selfe happie, if I should speede no worse. I thanke you (answered she) for your good will: but surely Sir, I thinke you haue deceiued your selfe. For peraduenture you imagine, or it hath been vntreuely reported, that I am the woman, which indeede I am not, namely ritche, for that my deceased husband made some shew to the world, but if that be your thought, I assure you, you are deceiued. You mistake my meaning (replied hee) for it is no such matter; I re-
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spect not so much your wealth, as I doe your matronlike modestie, my selfe is young, and I haue a trade, and am, I thanke God, of my selfe able to maintaine a woman. But I doe rather desire to match with your like then with a younger, for that you knowe better, both what belongs to a man, as also to vse thyselfe what I get. And mozeouer my selfe is not so young, but that I am meeter to match with a wiidow then to marrie with a maide, and would be most glad, if it might be my good happe to speede with you. I cannot tell (quoth she) what your good speede may be; I knowe you not, and therefore I hope you will giue me leaue to enquire of you, which done I will send you your answer by such a day, in the meane time I wish you well.

I mary, Honestie, & what then: no marry these, for she went to her broker to will him to search after his substance, vsing that manner which vsurers can best disclose, which is their practise in putting forth their money. This was a passing commoditie, for what better then a ritche wiidow: but that foolish enquire spoyled all: had shee thank him heartily, desired farther libertie, and had made search into his estate secretly, shee had shewed her selfe the wiser: but so bluntly to saie, giue mee leaue to enquire of you, she wed as bad byinging vp, as might bee possible. But tut, I like her the better, because she could not dissemble, for she alas did but follooe the common trade, & wing with the ape, but what she had seene done before her. She had heard her husband instruct his prentices to make a profit, and she thought she might trie the same for her owne good. I would shee and others knewe what was good for them, they would then rather respect the man then money. But this courtousnes spoyles all, though I would I had more, is too much in our mouthes, for folloved she not the greedie desire of adding muck to muck: might shee not as well haue liued with this man, that had a trade as good, pea much better then her husbands was, as shee did before with him: Shee had no children, suppose she had, they were

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were prouided for well, and what greater charge woulde this haue brought: he had a care to liue, or else hee woulde haue sought to loue without respect; for who knowes not that she is as able to satisfie a mans desire, that hath little, as she that hath much, if we onely regard pleasure: Take this on Honellies credit, that hee that builds his loue on such reason, as hauing little, hee will chose one that hath somewhat, wil proue a better match vnto thee, then him that brings mountaines. Beware when loue is vpholden with maintenance, if the heart remembers, I am thus much beholden vnto her, shee loued mee or else shee woulde neuer haue mitcht with me, she made me a man, being before worse then nothing, how much better might she haue done, if she had not been led with affection, and such like: It will also remember the duetie this kindenes requieth, euen like for like, least the worse crie shame of him. How happie should parents be, were this in their remembrance at their marriages making: how blessed should their children be, if the like practises were vsed: and what a flourishing commonwealth woulde that be, where equalitie of birth (which alwaies should be regarded specially on the mans side) should be linked to abundance, whereby the number of gentle beggers should be decreased, and the misgouernment of wealth will be avoided. One man should not haue his cofers full, and twentie want it that better deserue it. How many able men should we haue (if this were vsed) to serue and set forth men for the princes seruice: where now I am but one man, and I am bound but to my Aunt, to finde one mans charge, though I haue five mens liuing. But no more, this is too serious for Honellie, & I meruaile how I fell into this vaine, since I studied to be pleasant. What, thinke you, did my widowe after her search of enquirie, for you must thinke that the batcheler longed for his answer: Herry though she was not a fore in her speeches, yet shee proued no lesse in her doing, for now shee kept her house as closely as hee doth his holde craftely. She mislikt of the man, for what cause gesse you,

if

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If you knew as much as I knowe, you would sweare, not for lack of honestie, or because he was unthriftie. But wil you knowe whie: he had not the hundreds lying by him, as the reporte went shee had left her, and therefore shee thought it needeles any one should lose so much labour, as to fulfill her promise in carrying his answer. Yet if that were all, it were well, I and it had been well for him (for the saving of shew leather) if she would haue spoken with him at his coming to fetch it: But my widdowe would not be within, or else she was busie: and thus was his kindness requited. Now he of the duell, is this a meete reward for affection, nay suppose it be no more, the god will was it well requited: He thinks that if his dog had come, hee deserved better entertainment then to haue been beaten away, and shee had dealt better if shee had sent him selfe away with a crabbed answer, then so vnmannerly to vse him by such excuses. And well it were if shee had no more fellows, but out vpon them, there are too many such, whose coynicenes expresse their mischievous fondenes, for speake they will with any man that come, vnles a Herald fore runnes the selwo.

In my opinion, and it shall be grounded vpon reason, such widdowes are worthe to sit while their breches growe to their seates, as refuse to answer all comers of what degree soeuer, and because I promise you reason, this shall be it. Who knowes not that whosoever sues for the like match, winneth a thousand incombriances with his good speede, for he that knowes not that care shal be mingled with his best contentment, shall fall into a pitte before he be ware of it. And who, were it not for his soules health, would embrace such an inconuenience for a litile commoditie? I and the best marriage, is but a little commoditie, in respect of the continuall carking that comes with it. If then, as who saies it is otherwise, a man makes so great suite for so small hearts ease (respecting the earthly pleasure) deserves not he a good countenance, or at least a welcome that longs for so bad a bargaine? In my iudgement,

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and it shall sumpe with mine opinion, that woman is much moze beholden to the man that would match with her, then to her parents that haue brought her by; for they did what ere they did, of duety, & this doth what might be vndone of mere deuotion. Why, thinke the best you can, thinke for your selues, suppose one that hath nothing comes to craue your loue, did he only respect your wealth without his owne welfare (and hee that thinke to haue welfare without dealing wel with you, he reckens without his hoesse, and shal finde a new bil of charges) had he not much better to haizard the taking of a purse by the high way: Yes doubtles, for were hee by that means brought vnto miserie, he might haue death at his cal, to rid him from extremitie: but now being griued bucessantly, he may seeke for death, but meete with the diuell, hope for an ende, but feele the want of it continually. Yet come we to one further point, imagine some men that be ouer-much, desire to haue access into your companie, if you knowe them for such companions, I would holde you vniwise to admit them into your presence, but shall your hart but say, I suspect without trial, you cannot out-runne the crime of want of descretion. It is best therefore, you that feare such resort, to harbour your selues, during the time of the heate of the market in such places, as the countenances of your protectors shall present suspect, and disparage the practise of such vndecent behaviour; or otherwise to appropriate vnto your houses such helpes as shall bee likely to forestall the like mischiese. What euery one may bee answered is Honelies meaning, for vnles they bee, they haue not their due, nor doe you shewe your selues to be enriched with that curiesse, which wisdomers descretion doth challenge. For let me tell you, and ensue as many as knowe it not, that a man shall finde more pleasure in lying in the campe, being dayly threathned with the bullets of his enemy, then in lodging with a wife, vnles his wisdom be the greater. And I knowe you loke for my reason, then for this cause, for that their vnrconstancie
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brides more feare then the shot brings hurt, and their tender heart will craue more gouernement to content them, then the other will aske forecaſt to preuent the danger they bring with them. For a ſcale coate reſiſtes the harme of a muſket, but what garment ſhall out ſtand her theating of the horne? That man amongſt ſouldiers is counted accurſt, that is ſtrucken with a great ſhot, and that husband theſe bleſt among married men, that is not continually wounded with ſome miſdeameor, or other, he ſhall eſpie in his wiſe: well, I ſay no more, becauſe I am a batcheler: but Honeltie muſt ſpeake the truth, or ſhame will follow him.

It is wiſdome to looke befoze lepping, but extream ſollie to ſtand vpon nothing: hee or ſhe that makes many doubtſes, ſhall neuer want care, and ſhe wil il rule a charge that cannot charme a knaue. Speake the diuell faire and he will be ſatiſfied, and what woman knowes not how to flatter? It is good to knowe vice, that we may ſhun that euill, and as good to trie the honeſtie of woers, that you may not ſpende the worſe. You ſhall often finde a kings heart clad in a thred-bare coate, and a ſenatozs wiſdome harbozed in a youthfull head: vertue goes not by birth, nor deſcretion by yeares, for there are olde ſoules, and young councellers, counterſeit knaues & crabbed churles, the one being clad in a lambes ſkinne, and the other kept warme with fore furre. Nature makes, but fortune clothes, a ritch knaue therefore may march in the habit of a true meaning gentleman, when more Honeltie muſt goe as he is able, bee it in a mouldie caſſock. I haue heard it credibly repoſted, that there was a ritch wiidow ſell here in England, which had left her liuing enough to maintaine a younger brother, and vnto her did reſorte ſuch an one, as had not ſildome ſlung out at a bottle, nor would haue cared much if it had been his father, ſo he had met him in a conuenient place. This young gentleman (yet not very young, for he was about ſortie) came vnto this wiidow, to craue her goodwil, vſing as ſpendie tearmes as he

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desired quicke speede. He tolde her his name, so well knowne throughout the countrey for a shifting liuer, as he spake no sooner then hee was well knowne vnto hir. Whome she vsed courteously, answering him after this order. I hope gentle sir (quoth she) you will giue me leaue to answer you as speedely as you bluntly aske the question: And with all my heart (replied hee,) for that is my desire. Then assure you thus much (said she) that if there were no more men in the world besides your selfe, I would not marrie with you. A short and sower answer (quoth he) yet let mee assure you, that onely such an one (naming himselfe) will haue you, and so tooke his leaue, departing in as good order, as shee had in kinde manner vsed him. Shortly after at a meeting with many of his companions, he craued their aide, finding them as forward to performe any thing hee should require, as hee would wish. Vnto whome hee shewed his whole intention, the rather desiring their helpes, for that they had ben partners with him in as great hazards, well agreed vppon the match, they rode towards the widdowes house, comming thither in the euening about supper-time, when it was very darke, whereby their companie coulde not be descried. They knockte at the gate, and was answered by the porter, that being asked who was within, certified them according to his knowledge. Vnill they so hampered, as gagde hee was and bound, being laide forth of the way, which done, they passed further, entring the hall with their drawne swordes, where they found all the seruants at Supper. They had no weapons nere them but bones, being vnnate instructments to resist armed men; and dogges they were not to be wonne by such baites. Wherefore easily one by one they were bound and laide on a heape, the wower in the meane time with two of his mates, being in the Parlor with the widdowe that was garded with two sutors, being Gentlemen of account in that Countrey; he vnmasked himselfe, for they had al visards, and tolde the widdow he was come

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come for her: at what time one of them grew cholericke,
and I thinke it was he that was likeliest to haue sped best,
for he was placed on the benche nearest to her hart, and
drew his poynard, the best weapon he had at that instant,
making as if he meant to darte the same; but vpon better
consideration had, he put vp his Dagger, and was conten-
ted to be bound with his fellowe. All of them being bound
they got y^e Widdowe forth, and bound her with a towel
behinde one of them, hauing before their departure hid all
the Saddles and turned forth the Horses out from y^e house.
ouer a long plaine they rode & so through a wood, where
being out of greatest danger, he himselfe the wiser got by
before the widdowe, entreating her to consider of their e-
states, not so much he himselfe respecting his owne weale,
as he regarded his friends welfare, whome he had drawen
into that desperate action. But it was all in vaine, for a-
gain she would not, she sware rather to dye then to con-
sent, which seemed little to remedie his affection. Well, in
short time they were come to a place prepared for y^e nonce,
where they found a good fire with a Parson, and other
good company, assembled together about the same matter.
It was a wonderfull rainie euening, so that all of them
were thoroughly wet, but there she wanted nothing she
could desire, nor spared he kinde words to winne her good
will, which was so long in granting, as before the obtai-
ning of it, Hue and cry was followed into that Towne.
Whereof he hauing notice, came to her with his last hope,
willing her, that as she was a woman, either then or neuer
to consent to the sauing of all their liues. When she seeing
no remedie, but either she must relent or they repent it:
will you (quoth she) be good to my boy Tom? for she had one
onely childe called Thomas. To say I would (replied he)
in this extremitie, might be saide to be but flatterie,
but assure thy selfe I will, and much better then I will
boast on: vpon which agrément, they were forthwith
married. Soone after he called her aside, and tolde her she
was now his wife, whose credit was her good regarde, we

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that, I know (quoth he) be brought for this before y^e counsell, at which time vnlesse you vse y^e matter thus cunninglye as to affirme this was your owne practise, to shewe your loue, and shun a bad repoyte, we shall not withstanding smart for it. Which she promised to doe, and did indeede no lesse, all them being shortly after apprehended and brought vp to answer it at the counsell Table, where she tolde so good a tale for him and his fellowes to the effect aforesaide, as the faulte was remitted and they discharged. Now that you may vnderstand how well he requited this her kindnes, she liued with him a long time, and yet lesse then a dosen yeeres, and dying left this good repoyte of his blage towards her: namely, that neuer woman liued with a more kinde man then she had found him, with other such probable tokens of the certainty thereof, as a Countrey can witnes the same. Him selfe liued not long after her, at his death leauing her sonne Thomas five hundred pounds by the yeere, ouer and aboue his owne fathers liuing, which he himselfe had purchased by his good husbandrie.

What say you to this vnthriste? was not she put to a shrewde triall: she was and it proued passing wel. Wherefore then should yonger brothers be reiected, or why they that haue little be vnregarded: surely because the hart is couetous and mistrustfull, and womens mindes are aspiring being neuer contented. They so much thirst after preferment, as often they ouerleape amendment, and iumpe iust into a worse predicament.

Many looke so long for abundance of mucke, as as they fall into a quagmire of miseries, hauing siluer to looke on, though wanting mony to supply many wants, hauing a faire shewe and a shrewde keeper, one that hath more then enough, yet will not part with any thing: Honesty knowes many of these, and they seele more then I can tell you. Who goes for the most parte worse shod then the Schoomakers childe, and who hath lesse money in her purse then she whose husband hath most in his chest:

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But for that I am somewhat strayed out of my way, I will return to my first widdowe befoze my shooes be quite woone: My sozenamed Bachelor that neither by himselfe or his friends, could speake with her to know her answer, deuised this conclusion, to send her a Letter by a friend, not so much for the matter there in set downe, as that y might be a meane to entice her to be spoken with, which indeede proued to some purpose. For to the Messenger she came, and after notice giuen from whome the Letter was sent, gods Lord (quoth she) did not my friend giue him his answer? So, replied the Messenger, for he craues no more by this Letter. Surely (quoth she) I thanke him for his good will, but I am not minded that way. What way (replied he) not to marry? Yes saide she, but not with one so pong. Now you shall vnderstand her simple excuse, cleanly made, for in a mans iudgement it would not be thought there was much difference betwene their ages. And as it was gathered after, she meant one way, and the Messenger toke it an other, for she meant pong in substance, though he vnderstood it for years: as after further talk she plainly expessed. What shall Honestie say more of her? in sooth nothing but to pray either for the amendement of her and her companions, or else that this punishment may be indicted vpon them: that is to say, that they may be so haunted vntill they deale better, as they may not pæpe forth of their houses, without as much wondermen as the Owle hath that flieth in the day time. And doe they deserue less, that make soles: it hath bene a fustie saying, Qui moccet moccabitur, and vntill that proue true by practice, as it failes out true often vnlooke for, we that are to speed shall neuer finde better. If all men will agree to Honestie, we wil keepe a Cronicle of such wenches, my selfe will be speak the registreship, and though it be no great office, yet it may doe much good. But now to a fourth kinde.

Which were a thirfe-made, not a threed-bare Widdower, and a fine times left Widdowe, both of them being so much in Fortunes booke, as they were endowed with the thousands.

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thousands. They sone agreed vpon the matter, and with-
in a shorthe tyme were married, vnto whose house hauing
heard them boast of their substance, I often resozted to see
what good chere they kept, I was twise there together
in Christmas time, but neuer could see hotte meate, yet
good store of cold by reason they had had foure daies before
many guests. But since the holly daies hoping for better
fare, I found him and she set at a couple of red Herring,
& a slice of barrel butter, colde fare as I thought for a tues-
day supper. Alas how were the seruants dieted, when
they had no better: I would haue thought I faulte to haue
biene in her, untill she saide vnto me, that she was sorrye
she had no better fare for Honestie; when the olde Churle
replied, holde thee content wife, he is welcome, I thanke
God I haue this for him. I thanke your wor^{ship}saide
I, though I thought, I bespewe the Churles hart.
But there of force must I lodge tw, for that I had
ouer farre home, and he that had fedde me so hungerly, had
found talke enough to keepe me with him till midnight. I
must confesse I lay better then I had supped, lodgde in the
next Chamber to themselves, there being nothing but a
thinne wall betwene vs. After my first sleepe I heard
them two very lowde, and though I did not greatly desire
to be a partaker of their secret, yet I could not chouse vnles
I had bene either naturally or artificially deafe. They
were at shotte words, as he cryed, out vpon thee old beg-
garly whore, with other most shamefull tearmes, she ther-
by being forced thus to complaine. Alas that euer I was
borne to see your face, I was no begger when I met with
you, for I brought with me as good as twentie thousand
pounds, which now being at your disposition, you deale
thus crabbedly with me, meeting together in respect but
yesterday: what hope resteth to me of the end, seeing the
beginning is so bad: you diet me with hardmeat, and chere
me with crabbed vsage, I can neither haue a penny in my
purse, nor a good shewe to my face. I grieue to heare my
seruants repine thereat, though I cannot amend it, and
for

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for that I tell you of it which may redresse it, thus you re-
uile me. Holde thy peace olde whoze (quoth he) or I will
make thee, if they like it not, let them mend theirselues,
and either charme your toung or I will clapperclaw your
bones: with which cooling carde, she was glad to be qui-
et, as I gesse, for I could beare no moze of her at that
time.

Now Honestie hauing leasure to thinke of what he had
heard, still harpt of y^e twentie thousand pounds, which as
I thought, was meeter to haue made a King, then to haue
pleased a churle, with y^e I condemned his cruelty, and piti-
ed her chaunce, so long thinking on her hard fortune, as I
fell a sleepe, taking vp the remnant of my moznings nap.
Well, befoze I rose my olde carle was vp, and befoze I
was ready gone ahead, when suddenly comming forth
of my lodging, forced to passe through his Chamber, I
found the good olde woman shedding teares so abundant-
ly, as I could not but græue for company. But seeing me,
she rowzed vp her selfe and would haue shadowed her dis-
content, yet at last assured I had heard the iarre, she saide
she was sorrie I had bene disquieted, the which I ex-
cused, saying, I was more græued for her then for my dis-
quieting, for had that bene the worst, Honestie hath bene
farre worse troubled. Ah good sir (quoth she) this is their
fortune that are couetous, for I had enough left me to haue
liued like a woman, if I could haue been so contented: but
aiming at dignitie hath been my destruction, and longing
after promotion hath brought me to this miserie: my last
Husband was accounted a good housholder, and compa-
nion to the best in the parish, but he being gone, and my
hope to become a Lady, hath ledde me to this ill bargain.
Ah gentle Honestie, I was no meane woman when I met
with him, but he thinke, for that I haue turned my Cloth
to silke, he hath made me happie. How happie had I bene,
if I had neuer sene him, but too late it is to wish, and folly
to complaine, for that it was my owne choice that hath
matcht my selfe with such a churle. He clothes me in gay

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coates for his owne credit, but with them cloyes me with multitudes of discontentments: abroad he is gone, and perchance I shall not see him till bed time, nor are such trickes plaide seldome, when he leaues nothing, what need soeuer we should haue of any thing, but what the household prouision is, the best being no better then your yesternights fare. If he brings any bodie home with him, we must run to the Cookes to saue fiering, nor can a bit of bread be eaten without an account giuen to him, he searcheth euery corner, & chides for euery randles end he findes misplaced, and if perchance he happe on a crust, he will make as much stirre as if it were the losse of a Colv: he will prie into the greace pot, and hunt after the Tappe droppings, to be brieke, the creame pot should be euerlooked by him euery day once at the least, and his fiering surueied as often, a Cheese cannot be cut without his leaue, nor a sticke be burned without grutching. Now doe I so much graue at this in respect of my selfe, as for that my seruants want their due, their want being moze irkesome vnto me, then this scant: for what will they let to repozte, and who can blame them: or who will stay in such an house, and not without reason: so that dayly discredit is heaped on vs and continuall care for looking after new seruants neuer from vs. This is my greatest hart breake, and my sute to haue this redressed is our only breake-peace. He fumes when I informe him of what I haue heard, and stamper when I tell him it is not well, nor wil I tel thee all, for that this is too much, nor shouldst thou haue knowne of thus much for me, except his crabbednes had made the path. But hark he is come in, for the passion of God hide thy selfe, for if he should know thou wert not gon, he will mistrust vs, and smart I shall for vs both.

Now the Diuell breake his necke, or God amend him, thought I, yet for feare of her harm I was contēt to be lockt vp by her into a closet, where I was constrained to stay while her teeth chattered in my head, before we could be rid of him. Well, at last by good fortune a companion of his fetcht him
(with)

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forth to dinner, who being gone, I was let forth, an extraordinary fier being made for my welcome down; & to make me a mends, she had sent a bracelet she had, of which he knew not, to paune, providing so good fare for my Dinner, as I was not at better all the Christmas. But while we were eating of it, our mirth could not be much, her feare was so great of his coming home, but we making as quick speede as our teeth would let vs, after we had done I thanked her, taking my leaue and departing. Well, my backe was scarce turnde, when she bid her men and maids to bestire them that the kitchen might be drest vp and the remnant of our Christmas fire to be quencht and cast into the pyrie, least his search should finde out the brandes, and that breedde no little disquietnes to them all. Alas poore wretch thought I, how many seruants are there which live at more ease and stand in lesse awe then thou dost? Is this a wiues portion? doubtles no, but a iust plague for couetousnes, for they which cannot vse a benefite when they haue it to a good purpose, shall want it when they would, and seeke it when they cannot finde it. Couetousnes shall not escape hell, for how farre I pray you was she from it? her good daies died with her matching with him, and if there be any purgatory betwene vs and hell, she was in it, and thereby at the next doze to that dungeon. I would but all couetous mindes were plagued but with a dranne of the like discontent, I would haue theirs but a seauen-nights punishment, whereas she must endure peraduenture seauen yeeres toyment. Honestie thinks such a messe of miserie would bring them to a banquet of happines at their deliuerie from that wretchednes. If many of our cope dames that cannot be content with any thing, and are so curious, as daily dainties seeme nothing vnto them, were but pincht a while with her moxelles, I am perswaded it would saue their husbands a great deale of charges in their diet thence after, and would make their seruants much happier, by being freed from much needeles labour. Their houses would be pulled downe, and the
C 2
delight

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delight of their curious poked ruffes would be set aside, they would not respect y^e superfluous dishes they vse, nor regarde their superstitious curiositie in rubbing y^e flowres of their houses: what should I say more: they would vse obedience towards their Husbands more, and brawling with their seruants lesse, they would thinke of their owne happie liues & pittie others; they would seeke to please, and be more easily pleased; they would liue contentedly, and be thankfull for so great prosperitie.

The filthe that hath bene stricken with the hook, scares the baite; the childe that hath burnt his fingers, dreads the candle; the horse that hath bene punished with the spur, suspects the wagging of the heele, and the apprehended thiefe, begins to thinke on the halter. What delight brings sweete things vnto them that neuer tasted of sharp sauce: or what an indifferent opinion carrie they of prosperitie, that haue neuer bene in miserie? The vnbridged Colte bites the snaffle while the olde horse is glad to play with the bit, and they that are used to shackles, wear the without much annoiance: for that it is vse that gets experience, and experience that brings profit. When a curst Colw hath short hories, harme is lesse suspected, and if a crabbed cur be musled there can be no danger. There are both baites to entice, and hobbes to make to forbear: allurements to winne, and corrections to driue away; and he that thought this to be needefull, knowes best to vse it, which happens alwaies to vnbrideled nouices: once good spade egges vs to a second aduenture, and if twise a thiefe hath escaped the halter, he will neuer leaue vntill he purchase tiborne. My last Husband was so good, makes some so desirous of a second, as their hastie bargaine brings ouerlate repentance. Like will to like, quoth the Duell to the Collier, and some will neuer be satisfied vntill their mouthes be filled with Clay. He that hath enough sakes for more, and so I carrie a great countenance I care not how I am beloued. Indeepe what cannot money do that will burre any thing, and yet honestie will purchase that which

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which all the muck in the world cannot compasse, namely a good report for euer. Who knowes not that the contentions man cannot lide quietly, and why wil we not knowe that the aspiring minde shall be brought lowe? The loue of your wealth is in your owne hands, but the key of your wittes kept by a higher guide. You may chose a ritch man and hurt after an honest (yet ritches and honestie goe sildome together) but to say it shall be for your weale must craue anothers leaue. He that giues all things can giue thee both, and if thou wilt taste of his liberalitie, built on his charitte, suspect not and speede well, feare and speede ill, let therefore all thy care be built on his kindenes, and thou wilt be better contented with a kinde begger then a crabbed churle. To take heed by another mans harme is a louing warning, but if thou wilt needes try, take the hazard. When our neighbours heale is on fier, we haue neede to beware vs, and he that sits still at such an extremite, is woorthie to taste of the like miserie. To looke ere we lep is good counsell, yet to looke hartely and lep faintly, makes many to fall into a ditch dangerously, well a word to a wise man is enough, and there are few women but haue store of wit, if they adde discretion vnto it. Honestie therefore wisshes them to vse it so well as they neuer speede ill.

A list sorte now followeth, which was a couple strutting in the midst of the company, both of them being of equall yeares. He was a young ciuill gentleman, no lesse proper then hee seemed wise, his discreet gouernement beautifying both; but she, though she had wit at will and was very proper, yet lacked shee the other step to wisdom, namely discreetenes in her behauior. Her immodest fondnes gaue suspect of vnciuill lightnes, so that her outwardnes seemed to ouerlay her louers affection. Shee would hang about his neck before all that company, as a lacke of Hayes doth sitting on the beards shoulder, and kisse as openly as a dog scumbers carelesly. Shee followed him at heeles like a tantinie pigge, and hong about him as if pinned to his side. He could not stirre without

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her company, noz scarce goe to make water, but she would alwaite on him. Thus much did she not let to doe openly, and therefore I had the moze desire to see how she spent her time secretly: which was as contrarie as might bee, for, whereas she would bee mad merrie in his company, in his absence she would be as mad melancholie. Shee then would sit in a cozner, as a dogge doth that is crept into a hole, hauing done a shroude turne, wetting her couch with teares for the lack of her sweet heart, as a childe doth the bed for want of a chamber-pot. But being in a good vaine, shee would pen passionate sonnets, and in that humo: did I once take her when she had newly finished this amorous dittie.

SAd is the time while my deare loue is absent:
Eise waile my misse and tongue bewailes him wanting:
Heart bleedeth teares that doo encrease my torment,
And yeelds forth sighes which set it selfe a panting,
While he is absent, such is my delight
As is the saylers in a stormie night.

If I chaunce sing, with sighes my songs be graced,
And in my tunes my grones my baces be:
Griuous complaints are for the trebles placed:
The meanes be teares, the tennor miserie.
Foure partes I beare and want the fiste alone,
Which is my ioye that with my loue is gone.

When I should speake, my tongue forgets it talking:
When I should write, my fingers are benommed:
When I should goe, my feete haue lost their walking,
And euery part is dead of sence bereaued.
Nor can I tell what is the cause of this,
Except because my heart with him gon is.

Thus dayes are nights to me while he is wanting,
And meriest songs are plaintes for ioy departed:

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My mirth is mone, my sorrowe succor wanting,
And fences gon my bodie haue vnharted.
So that I liue aliue as being dead,
And by his absence sole, this death is bread.

After the selfesame order spends shee her well spent
time, yeelding such bitter sighes, while she is setting down
the like passions as a horse doth hartie neeces, that is trou-
bled with an extreame colde. Then pausing a while on
that she hath done, weighing the estate of her lamentable
case, shee castes her selfe vpon hir bed, breaching against
the fates the rancoz of her heart after this manner. Un-
iust and cruell sisters, that haue prolonged my dayes to
endure this miserie; is this the force of your beecre, to de-
crease my ioy by increasing my dayes? Haue you drawne
to this length the thread of my life, now to cut the
same with so sharpe an edge-toile? Cruell and unkinde
are ye so crabbedly to deale with a poore virgin, suffering
me to lye to endure this crueltie. There making a full
point, would she lie gasping as if she were giuing vp the
Ghost, till at length hauing gathered winde, shee would
thus begin to murmur against Fortune. Unconstant dame,
so much delighting in mutabilitie, as all thy ioye is to alter
chances. How wauering is thy wheele, and how vncer-
taine thy fauours, the one still turning, and the other ne-
uer remaining long where so ere they are bestowed:
Was this the pittie of your heart, to set downe so vnnu-
cissall a downe, as I should alwaies rest unhappie? You
whirle your wheele about to please your selfe with the
turning, tossing thereby vnto me one miserie vpon ano-
ther: then easing me of that burthen, to make the next
seeme more displeasing vnto me, thou shewes me my harte
ioye, and sets me on the top of delight to beholde the diffe-
rence betwene weale and woe. But from thence thou
thowest me as quickly downe, as I was ioyfully seated,
letting thy wheele rest as ouerlong, while I lie in the dun-
geon of vnceasing paine, as it did too little stay at the
height

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height of my pleasure. Thou giues me kinde, words, and
cruell fare, happie sightes and horrible heart-akes, thou
shewes me rest and fires me with trouble, setting me at the
table of dainties, yet binding my hands least I should
touch them, so far am I from tasting of their sweetness.
Unkinde and vnconstant fortune, what chance hadm in
kinde to be charmed to thy beck, and wherein are we more
vnfortunate, then in being forced to obay fortune? To
which interrogation, her selfe would answere With a flat
mad fit, cursing her parents that begot her, her birth day
wherein shee was brought forth, the nurse that gaue her
sucke, the cradle that lulled her a sleepe, death for that hee
ended not her dayes, and her selfe for that she was. Now
tearde she her haire from her head, anon she vnappareilled
her selfe to hir smocke, then like a spirit would shee daunce
the Morrice about the chamber, and some tossing her selfe
downe by the fiers side, sit no les senceles then her actions
had been witlesse, a long time resting as in a trauance.
But at last as ouerlate comming to her selfe, she would,
looking on her selfe, seeme to bee afraide of her selfe, sor-
rowfull to see the fruite of her forsaken reason, and rising
would some make her readie. Being readie she fell vpon
her knees, crying the Gods mercie, and pouring forth a
boundance of teares, in token of her penitencie. And
after that being indeede in her rightest minde: shee toke
her lute singing to her fingering this sonnet.

WHat booteth loue, that liking wants his ioye?
Griuous that ioy which lackes his hearts-content:
The sight of sweete in tasting of anoy
Ads but more griefe to former hearts-torment.

What sweet in loue to liue debarr'd of loue?
Soure is that sweete as honny mixt with gall:
Loue with vnrestt the heart to passions moue
That sighing sing, and singing sigh withall.

While

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While eyes beholde the pleasure of my heart
Heart ioyes through eyes in gayning of that sight:
But when that pleasure from mine eyes doth part
Heart partes with ioy and rests in heauie plight.

And tongue may sing a hei ho for my heart
That through mine eyes doth finde both ioy and smart.

Which musick would bee so metamorphosed, as in truth her singing would turne to sighing, and her playing to complaining, when in a rage she would thzolve her late downe, beginning to dilate on her loues unkindnes, that could be so cruell to stay foure and twentie houres from her. Now found she fault with her selfe for being so fond on him that forbearde so carelesly her companie, and by and by in a great rage swearing to forsake him, she setled her selfe to frame a rapling letter for a last farewell. But befoze she had scarce witten an unkinde worde, she paused on the matter, casting both pen inke and paper from her, yet vpon her second aduice about she goes with a fresh charge to pen a crabbed charme, and had gone so farre as she had set downe, Fie unkinde wretch. And there againe in a doubt of going forward or leauing the rest undone, she gnawed so long vpon her pen in studying what to doe as she had eaten it almost quite vp. But at last with a resolution she played the woman, falling into so kinde a baine of scoulding, as she had charged him with a thousand discourtesies for missing one nights resorte vnto her. And as she was concluding her colour with a protestation, neuer to desire to see his face againe, in came one of her sisters with newes that Master Anthony was belowe. Which so quite purged her of her melancholie, as in a rage she rent the paper, and cast all her anger with it into the fier, posting with such haste to her swete-heart, as in stead of running downe she tumbled downe a whole paire of stayes. Which bad beginning was carelesly put ouer with the conceiued ioy of his presence, she entertaining

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him with a kisse, for that he was not forward enough, to bestowe on her the like fauour. But ere long, she began to perceane that Master Anthonie was changed, being nothing so frolick of his kindnes as hee had been, and it was no maruel. For some reporte of her soze-used fondnes was come to his eares, that being no small frost to nup his former affection; so that his onely conning was to make that conclusion she was of late imagining, some finishing in wise and discret tearmes that her suspect was penning. Upon whose departure, with the paune left of his resolution, my minion fel into a sound, there being such a stirre for her recouerie, as what for running for aqua vitæ, posting for ale, plying warme cloathes and such like, there was no lesse rule then is in a tauerne of great resorte. Here forsooth, saith she that had the aqua come quickly. By and by answered shee, being called that went for the ale, the rest no other wise replying to euery question and commaunde. Well at length life was got in her, though no words could bee drawne from her, but being got to bed, shee song ere long like a bird of Bedlam.

In which fit I left her, more pittying her penishnes then her passions, the rather lesse regarding either for that I knew that violent fit would not stay long. But to tell you what Honestie thought all this while, for I knowe that is your longing, and if you bestowe any body, blame her for not letting you haue your will sooner, by keeping me so long there against my will. For unwilling I was to stay there so long, and as loath to leaue her before shee had left at a full point. That you might know all was my wish, and since I haue mine now, you shall not bee long without your wil. She neuer sighed hartely, but I laught as merely, being as often readie to pisse my bræche for loye, as she was to shed teares, which came from her as had at commandment. And wherefore was Honestie thus vncharitable thinke you, reioycing at his neighbours miserie? Surely because her selfe was so foolish to bee so disquietly moued with nutshells: would it not haue made a boyle

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horse breake his halter, to see her mumble to her selfe as an ape moues at his owne shadow. Doubtles, may I speake it without the suspect of arrogancy, Honestie hath as much holde of his ciuillitie, as a mare hath of her honestie, and yet I might as well be hanged, as be kept from being merry when she mourned. A Camelion cannot change her selfe into more kinde of colours then shee would vse change of motions. Sometimes shee would walke with her hands clasped and her eyes cast vp to heauen, as if shee were sent for, with all speede to render an account of her passions. Anon she would runne about the chamber like a hare that had lost her way: then by and by would she houle like a kinde dogge that had lost her master. After that girne like a Donkie that sees her dinner, and ere long be as dead as a doze naile, lying by the fier side as a block doth at the backe of a chimney. And this last simile proues not worst, for she burned no lesse thzough the rinders of too kinde affection, then the logge doth with the helpe of charke-coles.

Was not this a monstrous fit, that had so many motions? Why if Honestie should tell you how shee would sometimes bite of her owne nailes, knocking the wall with her fete, praunsing on the ground, and lepping of and on the bed, you would thinke hee had to doe with an vnruely iade. He no she was a mankinde creature, and I would not offend them for a kingdome: but this Honestie is such a pestilent spie-fault, as he cannot see a wench out-start the bounds of modestie, but straight he hollowes the sight of a striker, thinking it vnpossible that if shee want maidenly behauiour shee can haue womanly honestie. Well I knowe some will say hee is a pickthanker, but were not they thonne-thankes they would speake better of Honesties sonne. But thus much for Honesties credit, and now againe to my crad-loue, that had crauled so farre into affections extremitie, as she had lost the habit of her customers curtesie. I went once more of deuotion to see her, because I left her in so extreame an agonie: and it was

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Within two dayes after. Whome then I found clasped within a new lovers pawes, as iocunde with him of mine honestie, as euer I sawe her pleasant with Passer Anthonie. And what thought Honestie then thinke you : in faith no other wise then I am assured you doe now. I thought vpon such fondnes, the proverbe was builded, hot loue will be some colde, but enough of that in another place, and thus much more of her at this time.

She was as glad I warrant you of a lover, as a wretched iade is of a faire way, and he being tyred is not more glad of a stable, then she was desirous of a babell : it is onely, for rime at this instant, and therefore let it passe (I pray you) with your fauour ; but whether it doth or no, I beseeche we my name if I get any blame. For my tongue will not amble out of the trueth, though I should digge out my guttes with the Spurre, Beware least you offend. There is one still at mine elbowe, and sayes I must take heede how I dissemble, since Honestie is become a deitie. I would I were not, or went not so vnuisable, for then I should not craule so easily into maydens chambers, and heare them boaste of so many fauours bestowed by them on this day, so many kisses giuen to one, another vnloosing her garter, yea and she thought hee went not high enough. Well but that I am mercifull, and will not name you that are so inmodest as to boast of such lightnes, for if I should, I should quite fray away many of M. Anthonies companions, from bestowing their affections on so liberall whippers. But I saye no more for shame, hoping I shall haue no cause to speake of the like againe, you will become so ciuill, then thus much for you, and now to another.

This way a coy dame whose nice strangenes moued me not to the least admiration : she stode iust at the doze, to whom not so few as twenty had in my beine made suite. They were of sundrie sciences, and of all degrees that had toke the deniall of her, which made mee the rather to admire the cause, and to obtaine my longing, I lodged my selfe

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selfe that night vnder her bed. When she was layed, and one of her mothers maides with her, shee began thus to parly. What you what Nan (quoth she) how many sutors thinke thou haue I sent packing to daye? Not so many (answered the maide) as you did the last time you were there. Yes faith girle double (replied she.) And found you so many faultes in these (quoth Nan) as you did in the other? Nay I trow wench (answered she) I let not them passe in whom I discouer not many ouer-slippes. And what were their faults I pray you, quoth the girle: Some of them had store of wealth (answered she) but little honestie, other were honest enough, but too too hard fauoured; some had good faces, and bad bodies; other being proper, had crabbed countenances, some were amiable for fauour, perfect of bodie, yet ill legged; other which were well legged, shaled with their sette or were splashed; and to be briefe, they that trode right were either clouterly caulsed, tree like set, spindle shankte, or bakerly kned; onely there were two erquisitely shapte, whereof one was too tall, and the other too lowe. Thus much for their parts, and now to their properties.

They that were wealthy were meanely qualited, and they that had many good properties were monies: some had good tounings and spake well, hauing as ill gestures, others were rich and seemed wise, these I suspected to be wenchers. And to make as hoyste worke in telling thee of them, as I made spædie haste in sending them packing; either I mislikte their estates, scorned their personages, lothed their want of qualities, or could not away with their kinde of wiming. But shal I be so bolde (quoth Nan) to aske you one more question? I twentie and thou wilt, for in faith I haue no list to sleepe. In soth forsooth, then (quoth the girle) what manner of man shall he be, with whom you will match? Mary such a one (answered she) as shalbe the onely matchles creature in the worlde. But how will you meete with him replied Nan? As he shall light vpon me by Fortune. But Fortune is blinde (quoth

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the wench) and may lead him to another in steade of you. Yet as she is blinde (replied the other) so is she a Goddesse a god supporter of my chaunces, and I know my reporte is set so nere her elbowe, as she cannot forget me if she would.

I marry sirs you talk of a wench, and what tots this of a proud one: is it not great pittie but nature should haue compassion on this neate creature, and shape for her a mirrour of meane worth? How of my troth Honestie likes such an one, and why thinke you? I will tell you my reason, and if it lumps with your conceite, say you mette with a kill Crowe. I am assured that they that are of my minde shall escape a great deale of trouble, for of mine honestie, if I should light on such an one, I know certainly I should be quickly rid of a nere nushap, in being preuented of matching with a nice ninnie, by a nice body: for not being the paragon of the worlde, would keepe me from marrying with the onely paltrie one of y^e worlde: whether then thinke you such to be profitable members of a common wealth? Howsoeuer you think, Honestie hath said, he thinks them hurtfull to none that escape the, for y^e their folly onely hurtes themselves, doing good to others, in the like manner as he hath tolde you. Trot you and you will to tpe your Fortune, and runne to woe such curious customers, but say I bid you take heede, least you resist god lucke, by being importunate to woe them, with whom you shall winne a masse of mannerles Honkilly trickes. And I speak especially to you, that hunt after monsters of modestie, desiring to haue the maidens you would matche with, as very matrones as your mothers. Beware you light not vpon an ouerwearied conceited sollow-bird, being one that hath bene so curious to be talkte with of any as hauing liued ouer long without one, is become glad of any. Honestie knowes such, and you may be troubled with such, and how can you thinke your selues vnworthie? In faith ill conceited birds, if you thinke your selues so vnwise, as you are vnable to gouern a wilde wench, you will
she we

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the we pour selues moze foolish, if you match with a nice no-maide. But what saide Honestie: be there any such? I that there are, ordained for the nonce, to nurture such noddies. It is as easie to be mislead by hypocrisie, as it is folle to trust to an vncertaintie, and it is more vncertaine to know now a daies whether a woman bee honestly modest, or knauishly coye, then whether a Smithsælde horse will proue good, or iadish.

So how I haue a tale by the end of a minnie of my now handeld maidens qualitie, which was a Millers Daughter in the low Countries. Who was so proper a peece of flesh, as I can tell you we haue not many Dyffer women that out goes her in hooke shoulders. By repozte she was a louely one, but that she was monstrous blobber lipt, and stoopt somewhat vnrasonably in the vpper parte of her backside, but that is nomatter, her father was richer then most in that Countrie, and why should not she thinke her selfe the properest of a thousand: of Honesties word so by likelyhode she did, and if you say not so anon, then say I haue heard a lye. She thought her selfe so proper, as none vnder a Burges his eldest Sonne might sue vnto her, and he too to be no faultie gallant; for he with all commers should be so surely sifted by her, to see whether they trod their shooes awry or no, as the Miller doth the grist befoze he mingles chalke amongst it. She would haue a sting at their heades, to see whether they were round like a ball, or long like a bottell, and so from euery parte, til she were past the vndermost parte of their Pantoples. And in all of them she would be sure to finde some fault or other, the least being a sufficient cause to cut off their proceedings. Thus dealt she so long, as at last her doulitish age was vniawares come vpon her, making her suchie curisittie a shamefull mockerie throughout the Countrie; so that the generall repozte of her bruted ignomynie made her growe glad of any companie: and now faine would she be married, though loth to encrease her shame by matching with farre worse then she had refused being offered, and therefore

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therefore thinking to hinder the make-spéde of murmured ignominie, with a craftie colour of a continuing care to rouple her selfe to one of Fortunes darlings, she concluded there should be a Lotterie, and whose chaunce it was to be drawn by her should onely possesse her wth her self. You must thinke that many were glad to win her, for whom almost will not wealth w^{re} to a bad bargaine: My storie reports that of all sortes, some for pastime and others for profite, but their scrolles into fortunes budget, and on the day when my minions drafft should be manifested, who should haue her by lot, but such an one as Tom-wiles is, that will cry if one offer to take away his bable.

A sutable mate for so long a search; there was but one grand soile in a Country, and see how Fortune had kept her for him. How such chaunce follow like curious coye wenches, and may neuer wiser persons match with them. And are they not thinke you the méetest for them: For they desire to haue them, that haue the smallest faults, and Honestie thinks it y^e least fault in a man to be a soile. Who is more proude then a soile, and what woman more coy for the most parte then she that hath least reason for it: The Crow likes her own birde best, though it be the blackest, and would not we haue women thinke well of themselves: I pray you let them haue their willes, or they will whether you will or no; and if you like them not you may leaue them, and with as good reason as they will be sure to deale so with you, vnlesse you highly please them. The Ass hath a curious eye, and y^e makes his pace so slowe; for short legges will trippe at euery stone, and what, she is not afraide to fall on a stone: And reason to, but they will neuer be happie, vntill Tom soile and his fellows be hamissht for throwning stones at them which often hurt their bellies, whereas their falling breakes but their knees. Alas poore asses that your eyes cannot keepe you from burthens, as they make you ouer-leape often vnknowne diamonds. But what are more pretious then pleasing thoughts, and what fancies are more full of pleasure then those

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those that moſt extoll our ſelues. This arrogancie is an infectious peſtilence; for we get pride one from an other, as we purchaſe the plague in a mortalitye. But once more returne we to the merry talke of our cope *Spalden*.

After a long progreſſe paſſed in deſcription of the ſweet hart ſhe would haue, being ſuch an erquiſite proper qualified Squire, as is ſcarſe one in a whole Countrey, I maid ſell with her to this point: Now of my troth (quoth ſhe) by your leaue I am not of your minde, for ſuch a matchles fellowe is as meete a baite to entice many women to do his wiſe wrong, as a faire woman ſhall haue ſutoꝝ to do her Huſband a ſhrewde turne. And therefore as I would not wiſh to be matcht with ſuch a crabbed pcece of fleſh as none can fancie, ſo deſire not I to holde a mark for every one to ſhote at, the rather for that there are ſew men which will reſuſe a kinde offer. Beware when the woman wooes, if ſhe be perceiued to be ſoꝝward to ſome diſpoſitions, ſhe ſhall not want the offering of a bob: ſo that the bobbing bable ſhall bob the ſoule with her owne curioꝝ choice. Which knauith quip did ſo nip my Miſtreſſes Daughter on the head, as in troth ſhe left arguing and ſell harde to ſcolding.

This is bobbing with a witnes thought Honeltie, but ſurely it were pittie it ſhould not be true in ſome caſes, and in thoſe onely would I wiſh it true, that ſtrive ſo far to out-goe their fellowes in ſuperexcellēt obiectes. Beware the ſore that hath the ſmoothest ſkinne, it is ſigne his coate is olde, and his wit not young, he will be ſure of a goſe in ſtoꝝe, when many of his neighbours ſhall want one. I know ſome, about whome Nature hath beſtoꝝed ſo long time in ſhaping faire faces with proper bodies, as ſhe hath at laſt for haſte bene constrained to let them paſſe with imperfect hartes. She muſt perfoꝝme her ſtinte, and a time is limited her to faſhion every childe; by reaſon the they muſt haue the pureſt hartes, & haue the unlikeſt ſhapes. I know what you will ſay, and thereby will onely ſeeme to gainsay Honeltie, for that it is a *Wouerbe*,

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Crooked without, and crabbed within. Of troth I must confesse, that it is very likely, though not alwaies true, (for no work-man but hath sometimes a mischaunce hap-pen to his most curious worke, after the finishing thereof, either by a fall or such like casuall chaunce) that a halting bodie hath a dissembling hart, and a misshapen creature a crabbed disposition, and we doe finde it commonly, that vnder foulest aspects are hidden the fairest harts, though I know women accompt blacke thinges to be of least worth. But search againe and loke what eye is more perfect, or what will take soile sooner then the milke-like white: well, the maidens proposition pleased Hone-sie ouerwell, as you may gesse by my long stay vpon it, but I will assure you it displeased no les my yong mistres. Alas it is a little thing that will not displease them whom nothing can please, and shall we thinke a wench could pos-sibly please her long, vnto whom so many men were tishi-king: How surely he shall haue a new accompte, that rec-cons on lesse then this: namelye, that his matching with such a minion, which was so curious to be pleased, will craue as great care to be kept pleased, as a iade will re-quire arte to be kept from tiring. For doe I say she wil be tired, I would rather be diuened to affirme he shalbe iaded, though with such an one as will neuer be tired.

But let such as my Mistres Maie-milke is, take heede least by their cove kindenes, they kill their harts whome they would gladly saue after, with all their arte, and can-not. How easie is it to put that away with our little fin-ger, which we would willingly recouer againe with both our hands: I haue knowen some Faulkoners that haue bene so curious in dieting their Hawkes, as a nice curtes-an is of her fare, and yet sometimes they haue searcht a whole day after the killing of a carrion Crowe, and must of it too. The faire lasses not alwaies, and such as lightly regarde a good bargaine when it is proffered, may trie the market a twelue moneth after and misse of the like offer. The rolling stone gathers no mosse, nor the running faine

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is is worth the catching. They shalbe sure to meete with a sickle hart, that match with such a wauering loue, and an vnconstant affection is better lost then found. And for that I am entred into the path of vncōstancie, I wil come to a seauenth enemy, which a couple harboured that stood behinde the doore.

He was a Prentice that had foure yērs to serue, which I certainly vnderstode after wards, though at that instant I gesse no lesse by his fearefulness to be seene: wel, these had so wooed and wonne the one the other, as sure they were, hauing remained so by the space of thre yērs: yet now there was dislike growen betwēne them, firste springing from the woman that was discontented that she had already lost so much time, being yet bound to endure a longer stay. Who knowes not the certaintie of her presumption confirmed by an order of the Cittie of London, (which is, that if any man standing bound for the seruing of yēres, entangle himselfe and marrie before the terme of his yēres ended, he shall double his prentiship) and therefore must she either out-stay thē, or binde him by the hasty match to seauen yērs more seruice. Upon this inconuenience dislike harboured in her bosome, hauing tied that with her toung which she could not lose with her hands; so that mad melancholly she was for the matche made by her selfe, that tooke so small delight therein.

Now I would all might be serued with y^e same sauce, thought Honestie, that so sone tying themselves, desire as sone to be loosed: and it is great maruell when it fallēs out other wise, especially in these daies, wherein constancie is made a hackney. Lingring loue breedēs dislike, and how can that loue be faithfull, that is fastned with so slender a thong. There is a thing which maintaines the coherence of two harts, which if it be long wanting, our loue will prone but watrish affection: I meane that certaintie of an euerlasting happines, with an assurance of a continuall earthly pleasure. There comes many faire Horses into Smithfild in a twelue moneth, which make many that

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are sped already, to wish themselves unprouided, to deale with them; for all men haue not keeping for two Cel- dings. It is time that makes a iade knowne, and our knowledge þ wishes him further from vs. Many thinges must alter in seauen yeres, for that wonders happen in a moment. In one day a begger and a King are made equal, both the pompe of the one, and the poore estate of the other being buried in dust. Losses come soonest vnlooked for, and the worst bargaines are gotten with the greatest search: neede raiseth the market, and much enquirie after a com- moditie engenders suspence there is scarcitie thereof. What cannot golde doe, and may it not then easily conuert a hart that longes after it: There are many enticing baits that change many mindes, & who wil not strue for the golden Apple: onely except those that know they cannot get it, though they are deseruing thereof, which impossibilitie must needs hatche miserie. How be cozmozants more pla- gued, then by a disappointment of their purpose: They that sozeestall markets, make often times but bad bar- gaines, as well as the sluggard that comes a day after the faire.

Is it not folly to strue to keepe a wet Cele by the taile: or what commoditie ariseth, of holding the Diuell by the great toe: the one is ouer quick, and the other won- derous strong: and in Honesties iudgement a knowne losse, the sooner it comes the lesse it grieues, and better it is to be without company, then to be matcht with an ene- mie. Slipperie ware is not þ best Marchandize, and what requieres more care, then Glasse that is most brittle: I know you wil say a womans hart is as fader, and þ I think no lesse. When since we must hazard our welfare, that are constrained to deale with such pure metall, being tied to that traffique, let vs not bestowe all our hope on a pce we know must stay so long by vs, before we can make pro- fite thereof. Honestie is rather a pzoessed solicitor for a woman, then a counsellor to a man: but for that both men and women are troubled with the like diseases, let them vse

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Use my plasse that like best of my knowledge. Where
loue strikes the bargain, their liking cannot start backe,
but vnles he be bound by his agreement, affection is a fle-
ble fellowe. What surer couenant then settled loue? But
they which respect not their worde, will hardly regarde an
oathe. Honesty is all, for hee is the father of constancie,
and a fig for that loue which must be tied by the lawe. If
we foster a snake she will sting vs by the bosome, and he
that sues for an enemy, is woorthy to haue his pate broken
with want of honesty. A tedious suite makes rich law-
yers and losing clients, and a desire to haue all, makes vs
often to lose all.

I haue heard of a Gentleman, that tied himselfe to a
poore maide after the manner aforesaide, meaning to mar-
rie with her after the death of his father, for that he durst
not doe it while hee liued. He maintained her passing
bravely, running himselfe greatly into debt, thzough the
large expences she last out. Which curious and rich set-
ting forth, made many to looke after her, which other wise
would not haue thought on her. A blazing starre presages
alteration, as the Astronomers holde it, and doubtles a
proper woman gayly apparelled, breeds miracles in mens
minde. A prancing horse moues wondzing, when a sure
nagge onely pleaseth the rider; so while she liued accor-
ding to her birth, few or none regarded hir, but now set
forth as readie for sale, her gallantnes engendred
thoughts of some great portion, to be fallen by an vnlo-
ked for accident. For will friends let to speake, to make a
friend speake well, and hire of the same minde gaue forth,
that it was so indeede; vpon which reporte many woers
were drawne to trie their fortunes, and amongst them a
rich farmers sonne set in his fote to hazard his happie.
Whome her parents and friends so well liked, being his
fathers onely childe, as they began to perswade their
daughter to take it while it were offered after this manner.
But wench (quoth they) while the grasse growes the
stead starues, and as soone goes the young steare, as the

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olde ore to the market. Young heads are fickle, and suppose he should play false, how should we remedie it? Goldebies laue now a dayes, and may not a bibe eate by a sure title, as wee haue heard a fat hog did a poore mans glasse of oyle? He that can giue mosse shall be sure to speed best, and you knowe daughter, your father is not able to wage laue against so rich an enemye. Why woman, you haue not seene him this fortnight, and how knowe we but he hath a wife in a corner? By our Lady gire, such windfallies happen not often, as is this day put into your mouth. By rock and pie doe as you will, but if you doe refuse this proffer, we will denie you our blessing. Which counsell stroke so deepe into her conscience, as it sent packing all the affection her protested loyaltie had promised, and turned it so to the farmers sonne, as in short time hee married with her.

By that tunc as my minion had been married thre or foure dayes, thither comes posting my out-joynted Gentleman, of whose starke staring mad discontentment vpon the hearing of his willow guift, Honestie lists not to stand, since you can imagine it was great, but what remedie? What wise man would sue for a false-hearted begger, or what gaine should he got by the recouerie of a broken pipkin? In seeking to haue plagued her, he should haue punished himselfe, adding but shame to the losse of a greater expence, and in the ende recovered a flap with a fore tale. Well I pittie him because of his kindnes which was so crossed, but if Honestie heares of any such kinde asses hereafter, he will make as good spoyle thereat, as the boyes doe at the sole of a Morrice. Are they not worthe to lie by the heels that purchase the countertenor with so plaine a pricksong? I warrant you it prickt and pincht him too, but his father was the more willing to release him, for that he hope that losse had gained him more wit. Honestie could tell you of a thousand that haue been serued after the same order, they hauing promised to stave one for another, some a yeare, others more or lesse, whereof some haue had their hope

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hope found within a fortnight of their day, and then thinking themselves nearest to haue their willes, in come takers putting their noses quite besides the sweete sent of their forspoken bedfellows. This can be no small grieffe to a kinde constant heart, that hath peradventure refused many good likely hoods to stay for such a light huswife. He that will thinke himselfe sure to a woman, or shee that will build on a mans constancie, till the parish priest hath saide God giue yee ioye, and the brides bed hath borne it first nights waight, he is not of honesties hande, though I wish it were otherwise.

It is as good to bee assured of the home, as to bee made sure to an vnconstant heart, for they that looke for les shall be disappointed. God forbid Honestie should say it were impossible, that two may loue constantly vnmarrried seuen yeres, but he may abone that two say, such are scarce found in seauen ages. Walke but to Westminster, a place in faith where constancie is as little vsed, as wit in Bedlam, and yet there (I warrant you) you shall haue your head filled with tales of vnconstant louers. See likewise to Bowles (a path as well haunted with hunters of honestie, as Kemps head is sometimes pestered with knauerie) and blame Honestie if there you heare not outcries of waivering wenches. Long lanes and broad streetes, little cottages and manner places, are at this day by report bolstered with naught so much as with vnconstant mindes. Whereby what through the sorrowe, Constancies complainte moues and the grieffe honesties broken pate procures, it is great pittie wee should not haue many knackes to knowe knaues by, and as many Tiggess to gird garish girles with. A petticoate lane, is a pocket full of new fashions, the drift whereof, is that first comers should be first serued: but they meane no comers which enter not the placket. In Shoolane there is one that selles running lether, the vertue whereof is maintained with liquoz of a careles heart, so that hee or shee that cannot play light of loue, shall not be customed there. Withdrawe your selues to

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to Crooked lane, and of Honesties credite you shall finde moze traps to catch Kats and Spice there, then constant louers in Sordich Church at midnight.

What shall I say: since the art of Cony-catching hath sozeſtalled god inuention: but ſie on the diuell that driues ſuch wits to ſo bad a bargaine, as to be ſozft to ſpend their tme in no better ſtudies. They haue need of good intelligencers that ſhall intermeddle with trickes of Coning-ſhifts: ſo; mine own part, I had rather wade to the middle in Loues whirle-pole, then to the ankles in the bꝛake of vnconſtancie. And yet ſozce perſozce, by Loues appoyntment, I muſt haue a ſling at her followers. Let them ſlye to the gallows, ſo; Honellie that loues her ſo well, and my ſling will driue them to a woꝛſe place, vnleſſe they leaue her. Up hill and downe hill is a very troubleſome labour, but by the ladder and downe the rope ends many ones miſeric. What ſteeper way then to the height of affection: and how many often poſt by and down betwene that and the valley Likings-recantation. I recant now a daies follows Loues heeles like his ſhadolwe: it is a halting crackhalter, and a hurtfull hinderloue, and beſt he ſhall be knowne by his ſcumpe ſote. I meane not a miſhapen ledge, but a reſting loue, that either makes ſuch a full popnt in the beginning, as he can goe no further, oꝛ els ſtands at a ſtay twi oꝛ thꝛe quarters, not knowing whe- ther it were beſt to goe ſozwards oꝛ backwards. Extreames are as dangerous as ſtretches: ſo; as many ſopnts are out-ſet oꝛ crackt by the one, ſo many incurable hurts are receiued by the other. Honellie thinks a ſeuernights ſpace is too ſhort a time to faſten a true louers knot, but he that out ſtapes y moneth may learne as much in that tme as is needfull to be knowne. A longer time is pleaſing to them that haue barres to hinder their ſozwardnes, but he that may goe on without hinderances, if hee aims at a longer reſpite, take it on Honesties word, hee woꝛkes but vpon aduantage. They that build their affection vpon reaſon, are like to remaine moſt conſtant: ſo; where

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where a condition of profite binds the suitors, there a long day will not likely be broken. But this reason craves wisdom, the experience whereof must alwaite on Loues followers, the pretence being nothing but this, a care in our choyce to maintaine the maine chaunce. That is, that they which haue little, doe fancie none but such as haue somewhat, and they that haue nothing, either to match with such as haue enough to serue themselves and others, or els to sit still in the chimney corner. Al must measure their liking according to the depth of their desire, to the end they may liue with contentment, which will (I warrant you) nourish constancie.

Now followeth another sort, which are not the least enemies Loue hath, being our common courting lads, who take such pleasure in their pregnant wits, and so great gloyle in their readie tongues, as a wench cannot peepe forth the doyes, but they must haue a fling at her beautie. First comes, faire ladie God saue you, and then followes, that the sight of such a blazing Conunet makes them stand at the gaze, for that such sights are selborne scene. After enues their application, falling from the celestiall creatures to their earthly Goddeses, extolling their beauties to such a height, as when they can goe no further, hauing forgotten their way backwards, they fall downe headlong, breaking the necke of God reason. Then come they to the good parts of their bodies, and from thence to a supernaturall view of their hidden vertues, building vpon the prowerbe, A faire face cannot haue a crabbed heart, though many of them find by experience, but crabbed entertainment to procede from those their celestial objects: yet the most, what through their quicke conceits, false protestations and vsuall resorting into their companies, bring many into such a soles paradise, as they harpe on nothing but marriage. And maruell not, seeing we haue many so forward wenchies, that if a man looke but earnestly vpon them, they thinke verely, hee is inamoured of their beautie: but shal he speake and say he loues them: my father, my mother

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and all my friends must be made p̄iue to his proceedings,
foz I know he will haue me.

Alas light hearts that are lead a way with euery kinde
blast: know ye not that our age flowes with fine wits,
that must bozrow their practise of such like patients: Doe
not many men cheapen that meane not to buy, & think you
to want such customers: How many come into a faire
with neuer a farthing in their purses, and yet for fashion
sake will aske the p̄ice of a costly p̄eece of worke: Our
tongues stand vs in little charges for reparations, and
sīeing they weare not, we will not spare to wagge them.
But this is best knowne to you women, whom nature
bindes to the greatest practise, hauing giuen you no other
weapon; yet I may tell you, men cannot want that in-
strument, especially in their wooing matters. But did
many of both kindes vse it lesse, both you and they should
sp̄eade neuer the worse, for you should misse of many fond
faithles sp̄eches, and they should march without as many
kinde hit home floutes. They should not playing with the
fire, be burnt with the flame, and remaine helplese through
your careles pitie: nor should you be intrapt in the snarcs
of their smothe words, decreasing your glorious beauty by
hopeles conceites of obtaining your wished happines.

Many honest mindes taken at their words, are bound
to bad bargaines, when on the contrarie part, a crackt cre-
dit regardes neither his own reputation or anothers wel-
fare. How easie is a fr̄e horse tired, a good edge-tole spoy-
led, and a kinde heart surfetted: A dull iade will rather be
spurde to death then b̄eake his pace: and with a bad knife
we may assay to cut any thing, without doing it much
harme, but woe bee vnto that heart, whose mildenes
makes it selfe subiect to a counterfeit kindnes. You shall
sighe forth your sorrow, while they smile at their good suc-
cesse, they building their assurance of being no losers on
your good dispositions, that serue for stables, to rest their
hopes in: your good natures must bee but rounes for hack-
n̄es that neuer knowe their masters, and your kinde
hearts

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hearts to serue for mangers to feede their bad conceits. Their trotting shall fasten to your heads heapes of proclamations, the clauses whereof shall breede thousand of doubted miseries and ten thousands of carefull heartbreaskings. Their counterfeite friendship shall hinder faithfull and louing proceedings, hurting affection by hindring it from it desarte, with keeping it from receiuing the due of requitall. That bootles constancie shall banish faithfull loyaltie by crabbed crosses, and purchase to it self, though a haples conclusion a cart-loads of carefull extremities. True-meaning thereby shall be deceaued on both sides, and kind-heartednes plagued with ouer-sureset affection. Loue shall be banded a way with the racket of dissimulation, and beaten at last into the hazard Despatre by his sporting enemye. What a great losse will followe such a chase, and how great expence of hearts griefe, must ensue so throude a game, gesse you that lie condemned in the like charges? Onely Honestie pitties such a pastime that ends with so smal pleasure, and will now come to giue you warning of what he hath scene happen in the like cases of little conscience.

There was one of this societie that had so courted by a trench, as through a potion of pleasure he had giuen her, her belly rose like a blowne bladder. Belly round she was, so that through his craft her credit stode vpon cracking, which she perceauing entreated her phisition, that as hee had tasted of her curtesie, so he would saue her honestie, declaring that she was with childe as the truth was. Of my faith (quoth he) what care I: You might haue toke better heede, you are best to make haste and get a father for it. I hope (answered she) you will not serue me so: are these your faire promises, and can your bowes bee so slightly passed ouer? Haue you not made loue to me by the space of a quarter, being vled kindly of mee, and can you finde in your heart thus cruelly to requite my extraordinary fauour, putting me to shifts in this extremitie? Is it possible your professed whot lone should be so sone cold, or that

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your large promises should turne to so little performance? I cannot thinke you being a man can be so cruell, as to cast away a poore maiden. Away beast (quoth he) thy persuasions are as bottles as thy thoughts, and I am assured thou art not so foolish as to build of any thing I haue saide, or of that I haue done but as of a iest, if thou dost, it will be a bad foundation, and with that he song forth of the doores, leauing my mained-maide in a bad taking.

Doe you learne such doing iesting? thought Honestie, if Chaucers tapes were such iestes, it was but bad sport; well a spoete it was, though it proued a sure earnest, and who knowes not that sweete meates craue soueraine sauce? Her laughing ye-downe, came to sad rising: by a shrewde spoete to turne to such sorrie pastime, and if such an earnest penny cannot binde a bargaine, nought will holde the like chapmen but a halter. Now Tiborne and Whapping waite on such for Docters, as post to markets, so to iest with lac'd mutton. If saying had bene all, shee had bene foolish indeede to haue regarded a foles speeches, but seeing he crept so farre into credit with her, as he crackt her placeket lace, how could he of conscience call that iesting? Doth Honestie talke of conscience to Buis bailiffes, that haue no care of any thing but to saue their cassokes from being his purchase? Now tis of all the Beadles of Bridewell, if they spare such a spoeter conning vnder their correction, without double the dole they punish one of Baals common Priests with. I would their blewe coates might fall to be Hindes fers, vnlesse they giue such foure lustie lashes at euery kennell and streets corner they passe by. Why vnder the cloake of honest satisfaction, to allure an honest minde to lewde corruption, is no lesse thefte then robbing of Churches, onely the Clarkes consent seemes in the one to craue some tolleration ouer it doth in the other. Then you will say they deserue both to be hanged, and so would Honestie say, but that their christianity merites charitie. But of my troth if Honestie were a Iustice, such as sue after the selfesame order, should either marrie with the they haue

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haue deceiued, or hang without them, my minion going unpunished for that time in hope of amendment. Loue is a kinde hart, and marriage is a swæte baire what then will not such promises gaine of a faithfull lover? This iesting turnes to lingring loue, when the weakest hath surfeited in affection. Swæte speeches haue bowled euerlasting constancie, and running in the pleasant meddowe of kindenes it growes luskie, spending the remnant of his wooing to wolue vnto such bad fare: courting endes with such a charge, changing professed loue into burning lust. Loue looke to be maintained with kindenes, and when he hath got what wordes can afforde, then falles he to iesting, which turns contrary to Chaucers meaning, to y satisfiing of a leachers lust in earnest. But too much of this, except it were better, and once moze retorne we to our melancholly leste mardemaide.

She poze soule set so lightly by in her foztie wækes reckoning, so thought on her present hard hap, as she quite forgot her accompt, wherby now she was in a worse taking then before: for if being put to her othe, she should misse of that, his counter othe would make but a so so end for her, and therefore thus she bestirred her selfe in the matter. She made her case knowne to a friend, and falling downe vpon her knees, entreated him for the passion of our Lady to stand god helpe vnto her, to draw her mate to marry with her. Who being a very honest man y had some care of her credit, laboured so effectually in y matter, as what through promises and a peece of money, he made it a match, so that what through a little honestie my man was endued with, and a peece of money my maiden was endowed with, we had a choptlodgicke. Now wooe vnto such wowed spouses, if their mates want altogether honestie, and they haue no money, and this might haue perchauce wonne the standing in a white sheet without so good a maister. Take heede girles how you trust to such helpes, for Honestie can tell you they are not ordinarie. It is harder to finde one such in euery parish through a Countrey,

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then to finde a honest woman in a house of Westminster Hospitalitie. Alas how many honest mens children come to decay through this practise: Walke with any corrupted Virgine, and excepting one amongst twentie, if they all not agree that such enticements were the procurers of their miserie, neuer beleue Honesty for a halfe penny. Beware if a rich mariage be offered for a rewarde of breach of honesty, there are fewe that will not consent to lecherie with such byerie.

But the opening of an other wound remaines, with which loue is hurt by his courting enemies, for they which haue bene once deceiued by flatterie, will hardly be drawen to beleue sinceritie, whereby the faithfull sutor is hindered from his due. The beaten dogge shuns the stick, the tormented patient feares the Apothecaries drugs, the childe that hath bene soze whipt for a fault, will feare by offending to hazard his breach. Who is more warie of his welfare, then he that hath ben in greatest extremity: and if loue hath ben wounded with a dissembled affection, he will be afraid to enter into an action from whence the like sorrowe may flowe. What giues greater hope of constancie, then vowed loyalty: or what seems sweeter then sugered flatterie: Affection springeth of kinde visage, and loue settles on a continued shewe of professed zeale, which being sure set, cannot be remoued wout great danger, except wisdom be a helper. What sorrowe danger brings, and what care discontentment harboureth he knows not: But of the vnceasing harts-graue with the tormenting soure-sauce which seasoneth the destruction of entire affection, none can iudge, saue those that haue tasted thereof: onely it may be imagined by y effects that haue followed the like causes (as by the vntimely death it hath brought to some, a deprivation of their wits to others, languishing diseases to many, namely, the Greene sickness, the mother, and such like: and lastly, to ali mad melancholy fits) that they which are fauoured with the least mishap that comes through want of their longing, are rewarded with

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with the losse of a present wel-fare, hauing that supplied by a giste of sighing heauines. Now after y^e freedome from such a mischæse, who will not sweare to flie from the like danger? And since flatterie cannot without dangerous triall be knowne from faithfull frendship, who will not shunne both, fearing to mistake the one for the other? If a kinde hart hath bene deceiued by a crooked knaue, clad in the robes of a courteous lover, she will ever after mistrust the habite, for that it is vnpossible to knowe the hart. Who can forbid the Tasso; to vse his arte: and doe you thinke that any one for an aduantage will let to trie his crafter? The Diuell can change himselfe into any shape, and the onely meanes to knowe him (as is saide before) is his stumpe foote.

Liking wil not be long a doing, and loue that followes is but little, whereby he brings no great harne, but al the mischæse comes with desire, which swelles the affections, and predominates ouer loue and liking: he makes the mis-rule and keeps the open Christmas, he desires the spozte, and maintaines the pastime, so that though he be long in conning, and staies but little in his Lordship, yet the remembrance of his follie is not forgotten a long time after. He keeps his custome euery yere, and a yere with him is but a short space, so that after he comes to his full age, he makes many Christmasses: for Desire is not short liued. It is therefore this lingring loue that doth all the harne, because by him Desire is onely begotten. He that beating the market is willing to buye, will not stand long a bargaining, when he hath met with his liking, for feare a francker customer steppes betwæne him and his longing: but if he be careless, he will not deale without a good pennworth. Elerp easily then is the mischæse of repentance taken from women, seeing a true-meaning suitor may be as quickly discerned, as a careless chapman may be perceived. And how fondly doe they entruce themselves into the needles hazard of great discontent, that will let their loue runne so farre without reason, as it cannot

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cannot be called backe without great griefe at the least. Though a buyer be not able to giue the seller his asking, yet will he be earnest to haue it at such a price as he doth offer, and although this louing customer be not of abilitie to answer thy friends expectation, yet shall he not be forward to be possessed of thee: he is but a watcher for aduantages. So that if either his abilitie be such as of himselfe he can maintaine thee, or be thy possibilitie so great, as by his good endeuour he may winne a liuing, thy friends good will by the possession of thee, thy affection is too colde, if thou keepes him lingering without his longing, and his deuotion is small, if he be not an vnceasing sute for it.

And truly in Honesties minde (and pardon me I pray you with whose conceits it iumpes not) those matches shall prosper best, where lone is rather respected then wealth: provided there be a care had of the likelihood of possibilitie which must come with one of them. But shall one that hath nothing ioyne louing issue with another that hath or is like to haue as little, he hauing no meanes to make a liuing, he shewes himself to be a foolish follower of repentance, and an vncharitable procurer of an others wretchednes: There are many good wits, that wanting matter to worke on, wade into the triall of dangerous conclusions, which otherwise being employed would become profitable members of a common wealth. All cannot be heires, and many yonger brothers children are but barely left, though they haue had good bringing up, which nothing hinders their gentrie, onely now a daies it is a barre to their preferment. For men will sooner match their daughters with my yong maister rich Coblers Sonne, though they be their heires, then with a Gentleman of a good house being a yonger Brother. Herby comes the decay of a ancient gentilitie, and this y making of ystert houses: herby those that haue had good bringing up, must either goe to plough and carte, being drudges to such diones, or their natures, enclaing that, and moze abhorring to begge, leade them to lewde practises to maintaine
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the state of their birth. And did you fathers which are to match your Children, know the hart-breakinges many parents (which haue borne of your mindes) haue found by triall, then would the feare of vnicuill behauiour, which springeth by succession from their carterly progenitozs, turne your grædie desire of golden gaine to a ioyfull gaining of your posterities happines.

But he of couetousnes that is the roote of all mischief: for men that haue enough to make their Daughters Gentlewomen, by matching them with houses of no small antiquitie, will, with the desire they haue thereunto, woe men of great lining with large offers, to match their sons and heires with them. Who being drawen therunto, will vse them their wiues mœtely well during the life time of their owne and wiues fathers, for that their estates are by their great portions better maintained, and their best frænds thereby well pleased. But let your Daughters beware after your and their fathers death (when all hope is taken away of a further gaine, and a search made of their auncestozs alliance) for then seeing the baseness of your pettigræ, and y noble descents of their predecessozs, that corruption of blood which you with your corruption of money hath made, and their fathers couetousnes hath purchased to their succession, will (as for the most parte it doth in the like cases) moue such hartbreakinges, as either quarrelles of diuorcement or sutes of separation will surely followe. When on the contrary parte, if respecting gentrie, thereby to aduance your houses, you would match the with Gent. yonger brothers (of whom there ought to be lesse regarde, the chiefe house being maintained) your Daughters portions, being the onely maintenance of their estates, would be so strong a helpe to encrease their affection towarde your children, with purchased happines to their posterities, as knowing no householde quarrelles can be without charges, they will be glad to studie to encrease the swætenes of vnitie, thereby to continue euerlasting prosperitie to their following ages.

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Honestie knowes what the flatering-monger will saye, when he shall heare of one so flat against his opinion touching marriages, not letting to affirme that it is most necessarie that the consent of parents should be last sued for, and little regarded in respect of lone, especiallye seeing his Pamphlet buildes so diuinely on farre-fetcht arguments, to proue the contrarie. Therfore to puenent him, and to prouide against the great danger their matches-making procure, Honestie must tell him and assure all those that are of his minde, that were the wo:ld like vnto that wherein Abraham liued, or were Fathers of these daies of his disposition, his argument drawn from the gift of Euah to Adam by God and such like might seeme to proue some thing. But seeing these times in effect are quite contrary to those, and the dispositions of men in our daies, altogether disagreeing to theirs of that age, his time had bene better spent in a worke to some other purpose. For a little to seeme to flic from my matter, and to haue a sling at him; how many Fathers now a daies are there so carefull of prouiding conuenient mates for their children at a seasonable time, as our great Grandfather Abraham was? Againe, how many haue children that are so obedient to bend their loue to their Parents liking as was Isaac? Oh Sir, you are decreaued, our yong ones are of riper wits, and far forwar-der then Children were in those daies, and our olde ones are of more couetous mindes and far forwar-der to be drawn to their childrens god: for what greater god then to enioye them they loue: and what will offend our parents more then to entreat that: he sent his seruant to search forth one of his next kinne, not to enquire after one that had most wealth, and should some children entertaine no loue in our time vntill their parents procured it, nor sue for a match before their friends made it, it were requisite their honestie should be great, or I knowe what will follow. Yet againe, Fathers liue not now a daies ordinarilye above a hundred yeeres, wherby they haue a long la-
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King gouernement ouer their Childzen, but beholde it is far contrary, and therefore it requires contrary proceedings. And lastly, (for that I will not be long at this time in this matter) the holy w^oit beares not such sway in our consciences, as it w^okt wonders in theirs of those daies, and therefore to helpe our weaknes in the want of that warrant we must vse the meanes, loue, to drawe vs to that euerlasting happines.

But once moze to my courting companions to make as speedie an end with them, whose haire-braine fancying and fickle affection, is no small hindzance to loues proceedings. Honestie hauing set downe the meanes to finde out their knauerie, hath also provided a batte to beate downe such flatterie, the instrument to finde out their dissimulation, being a search into their lingring, and the clubbe to match their clubbe fæte, a loathing of their company. But to come to the punishment I would haue such to be plagued with, in my opinion, and by Honesties downe, they are wo^othie to be set for scarre-crowes in newe sowne fieldes; and the rather thus goes my iudgement, for that seeing they are so skilfull to doe harme in towne and cities, if that bad-used wit were so^o to be imploied about that commodious do^o good, they would inuent excellent meanes to preuent the spoyle the rauinous birds commit. Their pregnant wits and cunning deuices to catch womens affections that farre excede crowes in reason and discretion, confirme they would be strange, and therefore profitable; yet because it is somewhat too base, though their practises are as beastly, I will ende with them with this resolution. That they are as wo^othie to stand in white-thetes in Churches, for leauing women in desperate cases, hauing drawen them into that soles paradise of ouer-passionate affection, as they that popson strangers bellies: This would make faithfull suto^os happye, constant louers ioyfull, and courting dissemblers feareful.

Honestie, hauing noted these enozmities harbored in lewde dispositions shuffed into this Morrice, at last lent

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his eares, and bestowed his eyes, ioyning with him his best vnderstanding to search into the natures of y^e remnant, to see whether y^e multitud were mixed with these in bad conceits. But behold so contrarie practizes were performed by them, as those proceedings are disagreeing to the furtherance of perfect vnitie. Amongst these did I beholde Loue dandled with swete musick, and constant affection byholde with modest demeanour. The soueraignes of Virginitie displayed their heauenly dignitie, by the imperiall colours of matchles beautie, grounde with the Ambrosian ople of celestiallyl courtesie; and the matronly deities proued their ethereall discretnes, in following the heauens prescriptioⁿ for Loues true imitation. I saw kindenes matched wth Goodwill, Affection linked vnto liking, & Loue embraced with Loyaltie, Vertue leading the to eternall happines. They liked not for a moment, loued not vpon aduantage, nor wooed but with a good intention. These shaked not hands with hatefull hearts, nor vsed smothered tongues with dissembling thoughts. They courted not kindly, to corrupt shamefully, ne protested with bowes, to wound with wordes, and kill with deeds, but hand and heart went together, and the tongue vttered their passionate conceits, their heart louing them as faithfully as their tongue labored to winne their courtesie. And you no earthly creatures, though ioyned with men for their eternall good, (you heauenly saints I meane, masking in the shadowes of terrestriall shapen) you beautifie this crue with your deuine motions, whose minde are onely intriched with the true wisdom that byholdes Loues welfare. Your sacred actions, ayde his simple followers, & naught but your carefull kindnes binds mens weake affections from inconstancie. You make their prayers effectually, their request gapning through you the safetie of their longing. Your pittie brings them to pietie, and your almes relieues them from the captiuitie of Despaire. Destressed Honestie is soly harborized within your milke-white bosomes, and were it not for your bountifull charitie, his end would

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Would be tormenting beggerie. Your allablasters pappes do wholly minister moisture to my consuming welfare, and from their sugered teates doe I onely drinke my liquor of life, so that by your motherly kindnes to decaying Honestie, they reape likewise their blisse, that would giue mee my baine, recovering contrarie to their wills the remainder of their weale. For how marcheth the passionate souler without you sound the alarome of his gods perils: or how fareth the amorous gallant, except you play the galliard of acceptance: Unfortunate eyes, your pearcing sightes shall be cruelly curst, and unnaturall visage shall be offered to your obedient hearts, for seeing and adoring celestiall objects, vnles their relenting pittie take mercie on your distressed abiects. And blaspheming tongue, thy vnbridled impudencie shall heape vpon thy owne back a bundle of untollerable miseries, by being forced to vtter execrable flanders against them for their hard hearts, that were purchased to worke your hard happe through your owne iniurious follie. Passions of discontent must please your fancies, and sorrowfull poems must grace your musick; deep sighes must straine your heart-strings, and direfull sorrowe lull you a sleepe, when visions of new distresses must disquiet your greatest happines, and dreames of fresh verations forbid you the least ease. You shall sue in vaine, because you haue delighted in vanitie, and hope without obtaining, for that your heart haue harbored dissenting, except these goddesses, whose godnes is unspeakable, boughsafe to minister a plaster of pittie to your louing pittie. It is their courtesie that must make you chereful, and their good conceits must cherish your dying mirth; their liking must honour your affection, and their grateful kindnes must aduance the zeale of your protested loyalty. It is in their choyse to change your chance, and in their power to brydle Fortune, for that the fates, being their sisters, are at their calles to set downe your destinies. If they say they doe hate you, beware, for they can hurt you, but if they affirme they loue you, strue to con-

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finne your present happines, and feare to lose the proffered blessednes. Why are women accounted weake, but because their nature is pure? Or wherefoze are they necessarie but that men cannot liue without their companie? When we are succozles they comfort vs, being melancholy they chere vs, and they are the meanes to redeme vs from the gates of hell. Being mad, their muscall tongues chase away the euill spirits, being bewitched their loue charmes the tormenting diuels, and being swallowed vp by the gulfe licentiousnes, the heauens haue created the the helpe to redeme vs from that hellish furnace.

Thus much for their power, & now a little of their properties. O sacred mercie (neuer moze honozed then in the pittifull bosomes of these feminine deities) thou holds thy chief harborow within their passionate bosomes, & only art nourished in their relenting hearts. Thou singst within the closets of their pittifull consciences, & reioycest within the castles of their celestfall soules: thou liuest with them secure, and makes through them multitudes of miserable wretches possessors of the highest happines. Thou beares the sighes of suing swart-hearts, & comforts the pinching griefe of pining louers. Thou meditates of their bowes, and studies to requite their carefull affection with kindest curtesie. Thou pittiest the foolish maladies of fond nouices, & sorrowest at the weaknes of many mens wisdom. Thou strickest to do no wrong, that thou maist be free from iniurie, and labours to shunne suspect, that thou maist bee without misdoubt. Thou studiest to repay that thou maist reape thy due, and keepest thy day that thou maist bee well dealt with. Be a much moze and so much the better for man, thou pitties them that would spoile thee, and forgives them that would hurt thee: thou wishest them well that would decrease thee of thy weale, & louest them (which is thy only fault) ouer entirely that esteeme of thy proffered kindness too carelesly. Yet let discretio haue the second place with you, for she guides them by reason, and that governs men with wisdom. She knowes when to charme with swete

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Swete melodie, and when to correct with louing persuasions: she useth to dandle vertue, and reprove vice, to embrace good and shie from euill, and willingly to subiect obedient imitation to holtsome counsell, as also dutifullly to desire libertie from stooping to iniurious doctrine. She searcheth into the depth of subiected seruise, and discovering whether it be offered of curtesie, or proffered of knauerie, regards it according to it value, and rewardes it with it full worth. She teacheth to like ere they loue, and louing to encrease or deminish the heate of their fancie, according to the proportion of kinde coales that nourisheth the fire of their affection. She perswadeth to launce, courting to the bones, to finde out the danger, and seeing what likelyhode either of weale or woe is likeliest to ensue, she sheweth them what is good to withdraue the putrified liking, and what is holtsome to preserve the sound loue. And she studies to make them happie, by wishing men their welfare, to make them constant, by endeavoring to encrease a sparke of loyaltie, and to make them honored by instructing them in the true rules of modestie.

And now step in further thou beautifying modestie; for thou addest no small renoune to their adored natures, nor doth thy bashfulness meanelly adorne their highly prized excellencies: thy rosie blushes bring no small honor to their admired beauty, nor euer dies that sacred flaying colour, until by mans corruption, that maidenly marke be extinguished. Yet then (but ah that man should do so much) thy decent sobrietie aduanceth the dignity of their womanly chastitie, and thy matronly behaviour displayeth the soveraintie of their motherly nurture. Thou givest examples that imitated, present occasions of enticing offers to draw to folly, and escapes the iniurious slanders of suspitions searchers, hunt after shewes of sensuality. Thou maintainest peace at home, escapest suspect abroad, and keepest thy louers heart from harboring ielousie, the chiefe procurer of greatest miserie. And thou gainest liking and encreasest affection, receiuing loue and loyaltie with an assured

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redpledge of neuer-dying conſtancie. Neither art thou
euerlaſting goddeſſe, a ſtranger to mens-helpers; for thou
withall the vertues waite vpon theſe beautiful ſpectacles,
and they with the Graces extol thoſe the earths miracles.
Their praifes are unſpeakeable, for that their worth is vr-
ualueable, and their deſartes vnrequited, becauſe though
mans weakenes miſpriſed; but ſuch and ſo great were the
adorned excellencies of theſe humane deities, as their
practiſes layde open their princely courteſie, and their per-
formances made their louers happie. And men reioyced
through their faithfull affection, ſtudying to requite wo-
mens euerlaſting kindnes with the reward of neuer cea-
ſing conſtancie. Men vſed heauenly wiſdome to obtaine
liking, and carefull behauior, to confirme loue being
purchaſed, and women were ſo forward to beſtowe moſt
kindnes, being faithfully dealt withall, and effectually re-
quited proffered curteſie, neither being too coy, or
ſhewing themſelues ouer ſo forward to be wonne. But brief-
ly, and ſo to end, euery one of them rendered like for like
with proſes of neuer-altering affection, they thereby
gaining vnto themſelues the ſugred ſweetnes of cele-
ſtiall amitie, & tying vnto their kinde thoughts,
the affections of their well-willers, with
euerlaſting conſtancie.

FINIS.

